

EAR

Larry Elliott on:

Russia's great leap to chaos

Finance, page 12

John Carvel
Education Editor

A PLAN to put the unemployed to work as classroom assistants to help hard-pressed teachers prepare lessons and give more individual attention to children as they learn to read will be launched today by Peter Hain, the education minister for Wales.

The scheme is designed to achieve the double bonus of improving pupils' literacy and reducing unemployment numbers. But the teacher unions fear it could provide a powerful financial incentive

for schools to take on staff who may not be best suited to the job.

The assistants would be recruited under the New Deal programme for helping the jobless back into work with subsidies of up to £75 a week for employers willing to hire staff from among the long-term unemployed.

The scheme is to be piloted in Wales from early next year and the Government will see how well it works before extending it elsewhere.

Mr Hain said it would provide "a great opportunity for youngsters and adults who have been written off into a lifetime of despair without work. Many of those coming

into the New Deal are very able, but their skills have been wasted."

The new classroom assistants would not be foisted on schools. Heads and governors would be free to decide whether to take part and there would be rules stopping them substituting the subsidised New Deal recruits for existing classroom assistants, teachers or nursery nurses.

"People will only be recommended as suitable for schools after they have been interviewed by the Employment Service and after appropriate checks on their background. Even then they will only be taken on after an interview by headteachers."

The assistants would be especially useful helping with reading schemes. "It can be paid for," the Government's drive to upgrade literacy skills or be deployed to help hard-pressed teachers clearing up, preparing for lessons or giving pupils individual attention. Some assistants may wish to go on to pursue full-time teacher training".

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said he feared the scheme could degenerate into a "cheap and nasty" system for cutting school budgets.

Doug McAvoey, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the scheme was "a good idea" but that it would be "a waste of money" if it was not properly implemented.

of Teachers, said he supported the New Deal policy of tackling unemployment. "But if these young people are going to command respect in the profession, they will need appropriate training. You can't just take people off the dole and assume they are all right to work in the classroom", he said.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said there should be no prejudice against recruiting the unemployed, but the paramount factor for people working with children should be quality.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said

Schools were crying out for more classroom assistants under the New Deal scheme and it should be a good way of finding them, as long as the new recruits could demonstrate that they could acquire the necessary skills.

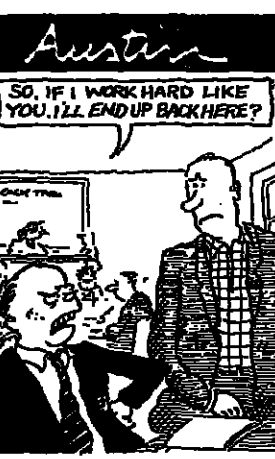
Schools will get a subsidy of £60 a week and a £750 training grant for taking on a New Deal recruit aged 18-24, and £75 a week for those over 25. The subsidies will be payable for six months.

A big increase in numbers of classroom assistants over the last few years has helped to maintain adult-pupil ratios during a period of swelling class sizes.

From 1992 to 1997 the num-

per of teachers in England and Wales went up by 2 per cent to 405,000, but the number of pupils rose by 8 per cent. The strain was eased by a 40 per cent increase in lower-paid non-teaching staff — including classroom assistants and nursery nurses — which increased from 95,000 to 133,000.

As a result the pupil-adult ratio in primary schools in England fell from 18.6 in 1992 to 18.0 in 1997. An education white paper said last year that many teaching assistants had little or no training. "We believe that with appropriate training they could make an enhanced contribution", the Government said.



**Richard Morton-Taylor,
Ed Vulliamy and Mike White**

THE Government claimed yesterday it had independent evidence that Osama bin Laden, the Saudi dissident millionaire, has been conspiring to achieve a chemical and biological weapons capability to sustain an international campaign of terrorism.

In the face of growing concern about the United States' choice of targets for last week's retaliatory cruise missile attack, the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, said Whitehall had also acquired "independent evidence" that Mr Bin Laden was involved in the attacks on US embassies in east

manding a recall of parliament to discuss the crisis, also claim that the Foreign Office was not consulted before Tony Blair gave his backing to President Bill Clinton's ultimatum that Rod Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is now conspicuous by his silence. Instead Mr Robertson argued the Prime Minister's case on radio and TV.

Underpinning Mr Blair's questioning support for the US missile strike on a Sudanese factory — an innocent pharmaceutical plant, according to some British experts — he insisted that "astronomical evidence" and "compelling evidence" that it had been part of the Bin Laden programme to "develop a capacity" to manufacture chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Robertson's independent ex-

His comments came as the United States justified its bombing raid on Sudan—as well as that in Afghanistan—by insisting the Shifa pharmaceutical plant had a role in producing chemical terrorism.

The US national security adviser, Sandy Berger, said yesterday that the US had “physical evidence” that the plant was making ingredients for VX nerve gas.

Other US officials echoed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright’s remark on the bombing that the “chemical weapons” were the “wages of the future,” suggesting further strikes will follow. And her under secretary, Thomas Pickering, promised: “We are in this for the long haul.”

Mr Robertson’s stance startled some *leftwing* critics. He said that if British interests had been attacked in Iraq, the Labour government would retaliate in the same way—despite complaints from Moscow and the Islamic world that Washington was the Labour government’s enemy.

“We have given the same indications and the same warnings to international terrorists,” he said, “but our embassies that the consequences would be dire on them if they did it.”

He declared.

denise ourselves that Bin Laden and others were seeking to acquire chemical and biological weapons in order to prosecute the kind of campaign that we know they have now involved in. He told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* and other interviewers.

"To many people, as we have seen in Iraq, it is not clear the distinction between an ordinary chemical or pharmaceutical plant and the elements that are required to produce the precursor chemicals that can make up the toxins that can be used against civil populations."

He added: "But the Americans have had that convincing evidence and that is the problem. They have had that evidence. It is not clear whether he has seen the products of US intelligence or is relying on assurances from his US contacts in the White House."

Tony Benn, the Labour ex-cabinet minister who strongly criticises the Government's support for the US in its attacks in Iraq, said: "The world is in a state of confusion."

Tony Benn said last night: "The overwhelming majority of evidence now available ... indicates that there were no chemical weapons being made in the Sudan."

Threat to US and Israel

Terror threat to US and Israel, page 6; Tony Benn, page 2

The 4x400 metre relay team — Mark Hylton (left), Mark Richardson, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch — celebrate their victory as Britain topped the medals table with nine golds in the European Championships in Budapest yesterday. Triumph in Budapest. Sport, pages 22 and 23

Russia in disarray after second set of sackings in five months

James Meek in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin yesterday sacked his entire government for the second time in five months and brought back the man he fired, Yury Chernomyrdin, as prime minister.

Mr. Yeltsin, who normally speaks on radio or television to announce sudden dismissals, was not heard or seen, prompting intense speculation that he had already decided to replace the young Sergei Kiriyenko with the man widely thought to have got Russia into its current financial crisis.

"This decision lacks any logic," said parliamentary leftist Nikolai Ryzhkov.

"When Yeltsin sacked Chernomyrdin five months ago, he sacked him for a reason," Mr. Chernomyrdin will now have to recruit ministers and be confirmed in office by a sceptical parliament, still showing signs of ailing from the financial crisis that shows every sign of worsening in the coming days.

Mr. Kiriyenko, a 36-year-old banker from the town of Novgorod, never had a political base

in parliament, which disliked this political liberalism, and was regarded with suspicion by the powerful businessmen and regional leaders who control much of Russia's wealth, who feared he might implement their plans to let them to pay tax or go bankrupt.

It was pressure from these figures and the media they control which brought Mr Kiriyenko down and promoted the return of Mr Chernomyrdin, who is more acceptable to Russia's special interest elites.

There was no popular pressure on Mr Kiriyenko to quit. Most ordinary Russians saw little difference between the policies he and Mr Chernomyrdin carried out. They only resented a man who had been so much admired for his currency and intellect.

The catalyst for Mr Kiriyenko's downfall was Monday's devaluation of the rouble and debt default, which was followed by the crisis in July in persuading the IMF to grant Russia an emergency loan.

All week Mr Chernomyrdin stormed angrily through the corridors power, demanding the Kiriyenko government and holding consultations with politicians and

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man with glasses. He is looking down and to the left, with his right hand resting against his chin and cheek. The image is grainy and has a stark, graphic quality.

Victor Chernomyrdin:
Back after five months

business leaders. He now becomes Mr Yeltsin's natural successor, and acting head of the state if the president is incapacitated.

Although Mr Yeltsin cast him out of the prime ministerial chair in March with an enigmatic commission to prepare for presidential elections, Mr and Mrs Chernomyrdin always making plans to run in 2000, few fancied the unpopular apparatchik's chances without the power base of the government and its patronage.

Last night Mr Kiriyenko emerged from the govern-

to the White House with a political ally, deputy premier Boris Nemtsov, to bid a tearful farewell to a group of camp co-founders who maintained their vigil outside the building and whose plastic helmets were smeared with blood. The hearing against the cobblers have been a reminder of the Russia before the Russia before Moscow.

Communist leader Gennady Yegorov, leader of the largest opposition group in parliament, accused Mr Yeltsin of "operative tricks" and of "appointing a new prime minister without consulting parliament" and repeated his demands for a complete change of economic course.

Mr Yeltsin, a former liberal Yabloko party, said the new appointment testified to "profound confusion and inciseness" in the government.

Until Mr Yabshin comes up with the satisfactory explanation for his latest actions, there is bound to be doubt as to whether he will be the former premier back and how far he was bullied into doing it by his entourage. He must over a week's time, the opposition will be expected to stand out at first hand when Bill Clinton visits Moscow.


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Inside

Britain

Tony Blair, who is to visit Northern Ireland, has plans to counter terrorism that will avoid the need to recall Parliament.

World News
A Neapolitan cardinal is under investigation for crimes including conspiracy in loan sharking, extortion and embezzlement.

Finance

The rail regulator, John Swift, could be sacked as sacrificial lamb for the worsening public image of the industry.

Sport
Aston Villa shrugged off the departure of star striker Dwight Yorke with a 3-1 win over Middlesbrough.

Weather 2; Obituaries 10
Comment 9; Crossword 12
Sport News
Football 14-16;
Quick Crossword 24

35

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Canadian spring... Prince Charles with William and Harry enjoying a relaxed moment during their visit to Vancouver. His relationship with his sons is obviously affectionate

Praise

Camilla Parker Bowles . . . no

prospect of remarriage

Monday, October 13, 1997

Key

- Sunshine
- Rain
- Cloudy
- Overcast
- Showers
- Hail
- Sunny intervals
- Sunshine and showers
- Snow
- Sleet
- Thunder
- Cold front
- Warm front
- Occluded front
- Trough

Map Details:

- Pressure Systems:**
 - LOW** (1016) over the British Isles.
 - LOW** (1008) over Eastern Europe.
 - HIGH** (1016) over the Mediterranean.
 - HIGH** (1008) over the Atlantic.
- Fronts:**
 - Cold fronts (solid line with triangles) moving from the northwest.
 - Warm fronts (solid line with semicircles) moving from the southwest.
 - Occluded fronts (solid line with alternating triangles and semicircles).
 - Troughs (dashed lines).
- Weather Conditions:**
 - Northwest Europe:** Rain, showers, and sun.
 - Central Europe:** Rain, overcast, and sun.
 - East Europe:** Rain, overcast, and sun.
 - Mediterranean:** Sunshine, sunny intervals, and showers.
 - North Africa:** Sunshine and sunny intervals.
- Temperature Readings (°C):**
 - Reykjavik: 13
 - Dublin: 18
 - London: 20
 - Paris: 22
 - Amsterdam: 18
 - Brussels: 18
 - Luxembourg: 24
 - Frankfurt: 17
 - Berlin: 18
 - Warsaw: 25
 - Minsk: 25
 - Vilnius: 25
 - Riga: 19
 - Tallinn: 15
 - Helsinki: 15
 - Stockholm: 20
 - Oslo: 20
 - Copenhagen: 18
 - Madrid: 27
 - Lisbon: 27
 - Barcelona: 24
 - Valencia: 24
 - Seville: 24
 - Algiers: 24
 - Tripoli: 24
 - Beirut: 24
 - Sofia: 24
 - Bucharest: 24
 - Ankara: 24
 - Tel Aviv: 24

Today		Tomorrow		Wednesday		Thursday	
max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min
Wales 34 21 S	Madrid 37 18 S	Algiers 34 21 S	Madrid 37 18 S	Algiers 35 21 S	Madrid 38 20 S	Algiers 34 22 S	Madrid 39 18 S
Norfolk 19 10 S	Algeria 35 21 S	Amsterdam 19 10 S	Algeria 35 21 S	Amsterdam 19 9 R	Algeria 36 20 S	Amsterdam 19 8 R	Algeria 39 18 S
London 35 24 S	Oslo 26 13 S	Amsterdam 19 10 S	Oslo 26 13 S	Amsterdam 19 9 R	Oslo 26 13 S	Amsterdam 19 8 R	Oslo 26 13 S
Berlin 17 11 Th	Rome 30 19 Sh	Berlin 17 11 Th	Rome 30 19 Sh	Berlin 17 12 Sh	Rome 30 19 S	Berlin 18 9 Th	Rome 30 19 S
Stockholm 19 10 S	Paris 30 19 S	Stockholm 19 10 S	Paris 30 19 S	Stockholm 19 10 S	Paris 30 19 S	Stockholm 19 10 S	Paris 30 19 S
South 18 11 Th	Brussels 30 19 S	South 18 11 Th	Brussels 30 19 S	South 18 11 Th	Brussels 30 19 S	South 18 11 Th	Brussels 30 19 S
Amsterdam 19 10 S	Copenhagen 18 9 S	Amsterdam 19 10 S	Copenhagen 18 9 S	Amsterdam 19 9 R	Copenhagen 18 9 S	Amsterdam 19 8 R	Copenhagen 17 11 S
London 35 24 S	Venice 22 14 S	London 35 24 S	Venice 22 14 S	London 35 24 S	Venice 22 14 S	London 35 24 S	Venice 22 14 S
Wales 34 21 S	Tunis 22 14 S	Wales 34 21 S	Tunis 22 14 S	Wales 34 21 S	Tunis 22 14 S	Wales 34 21 S	Tunis 22 14 S
Norfolk 19 10 S	Geneva 22 14 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Geneva 22 14 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Geneva 22 14 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Geneva 22 14 S
London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S
Wales 34 21 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Wales 34 21 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Wales 34 21 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Wales 34 21 S	Lisbon 24 15 S
Norfolk 19 10 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	Norfolk 19 10 S	Lisbon 24 15 S
London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S	London 35 24 S	Lisbon 24 15 S

Funchal	S	25	77	Guangzhou	C	20	88
Fukuoka	S	24	75	Sydney	F	17	63
Geneva	S	24	75	Taipei	S	32	90
Glasgow	S	27	81	Tenby	S	27	81
Helsinki	C	15	59	Tokyo	C	29	84
Hong Kong	C	31	88	Toronto	C	27	81
Innsbruck	C	19	68	Tunis	S	32	90
Istanbul	S	27	81	Vancouver	C	20	88
Jaipur	F	6	48	Venice	C	27	81
K. Lumpur	C	31	88	Vienna	F	19	68
Kingston	C	33	91	Warsaw	C	18	61
Larnaca	S	28	82	Washington	F	32	90
Lima	C	20	68	Wellington	F	13	55
Lisbon	S	33	91	Zurich	S	18	64

The World Today, 5.00 World Living: 1.00 Per Show, 5.00 World News and Weather, 8.30 Hard Talk, 6.00 World News and Weather, 8.30 World Living: Earth Report, 7.00 The World Today, 8.30 Hard Talk, 9.00 World News and Weather, 9.30 World Focus: Window on Europe, 10.00 World News and World Business Report, 10.30 World Business Report and Weather, 10.30 World Living: The Travel Show, 11.00 World News, 11.30 Europe Direct, 12.00 World News and Weather, 12.30 World Business Report, 12.45 Asia Today and Weather, 1.00 World News, 1.08 USA Direct, 1.30 World Focus:

Sky Movies Screen 2
★ Astra
 7.05 Underwater! 8.00 Divorce, American Style. 9.00 Corned. 1.00 IQ: The Mighty Ducks. 2.00 Divorce, American Style. 5.00 Underwater! 6.45 IQ: The Mighty Ducks. 8.30 Special Feature: He Got Game, 9.00 Mother Knows Best 9.15 Astra. 1.00 The Crossing Guard. 2.05 Father-Master.

Discovery
@ Astra/Intelsat
 5:00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures. 5:30
 Top Marquesas. 6:00 First Flights. 6:30
 Jawsco II. 7:00 Wildlife SOS. 7:30
 Predators. 8:30 Arthur C. Clarke's World
 of Strange Powers. 9:00 Adventures of the
 Quest. 10:00 The Five Below Us. 11:00
 War with Japan. 12:00 Grace the Sheik:
 The Story of Vipers. 1:00 First Flights.
 1:30 Top Marquesas. 2:00 Adrenalin Rush.

هکذا من الاصل



'We intend to take down [Bin Laden's] terror network. He was not our target as such. We were targeting his infrastructure and his network and we believe that was a mission accomplished'

William Cohen, US defence secretary



'We have independent evidence ourselves that Bin Laden and others were seeking to acquire chemical and biological weapons in order to prosecute the kind of campaign that we know they were involved in'

George Robertson, Defence Secretary



'We asked him to keep silent, and told him it's not your business to take revenge or say I will do this or that'

Mullah Mohamed Omar, leader of the Taliban militia, on Osama bin Laden, left

Terror threat to US and Israeli planes

America is put on its guard as the defence secretary warns citizens: 'Be on heightened alert'

Nick Hopkins, Ed Vulliamy in Chicago, and John Hooper in Rome

OSAMA bin Laden's terrorist organisation has four targets in its sights — including airlines — for revenge attacks against the United States and Israel after last week's US missile raids against the self-styled Islamic organisation.

In faxes sent from Peshawar, the International Islamic Front for Holy War against the Jews and Crusaders (IIF) said it was mobilising against the US and Israel to bring down their airplanes, prevent the safe passage of their

ships, orchestrate occupation of their embassies, force closure of American and Israeli companies and banks.

The group did not specify how these goals would be pursued, but warned that Islamic militants had already been mobilised and that they would be "pitiless and violent".

All American citizens were put on notice yesterday by the US defence secretary, William Cohen, that they "should be on heightened alert, and aware of their environment".

The Federal Aviation Authority on Saturday ordered airports across the country to "further enhance security measures". By yesterday, airport security patrols were making their presence felt

more strongly, with plainclothes officers going into uniform to patrol with dogs at airports in Washington, New York and Chicago. Dog-patrol units were also deployed at important points in the capital.

A Red Alpha alert is already in force at US diplomatic missions and military posts overseas after the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7. Mr Bin Laden's group is suspected of carrying out the attack, in which 257 people were killed, most of them Africans.

In Washington, the number of security guards is to be increased this week at all government buildings in the capital, bolstered by special police anti-terrorist units. In a symbolic expression of US determination, huge concrete barriers are also being put around the Washington Monument, the towering obelisk that dominates the Mall.

An overwhelming 73 per cent of Americans — surveyed by Newsweek — support last week's US bombing of Bin Laden training camps in south-east Afghanistan and a factory in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. Public and media opinion seems relatively unaffected by accusations from Sudan that the Khartoum site was unconnected with terrorist activity.

According to a senior White House source who spoke to

the Guardian, the US raids were primarily the brainchild of the National Security Council and State Department, rather than the Clinton White House.

With a continuing eye on potential threats overseas, government guidelines were issued at the weekend for US travellers and tourists abroad, urging them to avoid public places.

Millions of American business reps and holidaymakers

are overseas at any time, and one official indicated that any of them could be at risk: "Even if diplomatic and military installations may be the preferred targets, virtually any US site or citizen is a potential target in places where hating America is a national pastime."

Britain could also be vulnerable after Tony Blair's wholehearted support for President Clinton's attacks on suspected Bin Laden installa-

tions in Afghanistan and Sudan last week.

It was to the London base of the fundamentalist group al-Mujahideen — mouthpiece of the International Islamic Front worldwide — that the IIF's threatening faxes were sent from Peshawar on Saturday. The faxes called on Muslims to "take necessary steps" and declared: "The war has begun."

Some keen Bin Laden supporters live in Britain as political refugees. One is Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, who founded al-Mujahideen in Saudi Arabia, and describes himself as the British spokesman for the IIF.

Sheikh Omar said yesterday it was "possible" that the IIF would identify targets in Britain.

"I am only passing on the message of the IIF. I am not responsible for military action," he said. "But I would take the threat very seriously. I would expect that Muslims

in Europe will take action. US forces are legitimate targets. Even moderate Muslim groups have been contacting us saying how angry they are."

In an interview with La Repubblica, the Rome daily newspaper, Sheikh Omar went further: the IIF, he said, intended to hijack aircraft, and Mr Bin Laden had a \$500 million war chest to pay for the Islamic jihad.

He said that the IIF had bombed the US embassy in Nairobi because it was a CIA stronghold, and the headquarters of American espionage in Africa.

It is understood that the Home Office is taking the possibility of IIF retaliation seriously, and that MI5 and MI6 are working with Special Branch to up and review a list of Islamic militants living in Britain.

However, the Home Office refused to comment on such a sensitive subject.

US 'prepared for nuclear strikes on terror groups'

NUCLEAR strikes against terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction are part of official US military doctrine, it was claimed yesterday, by the US defence secretary, William Cohen.

The document states that "whether the law of armed conflict nor any other customary or conventional international law prohibits

the use of nuclear weapons in armed conflicts".

Dan Plesch, director of Basic, said last night: "For the US to consider formally using nuclear weapons against non-state actors only serves to make the 'unthinkable' act of nuclear war more 'thinkable'."

Factory rubble yields no sign of arms

David Hirst in Khartoum

THERE was precious little sign of anything sinister when foreign journalists got to the controversial chemical plant which the American cruise missiles hit. No sign, anyway, that anyone had been trying to hide anything, or planned to do so. Access was easy.

I simply said I was a journalist, and was invited to go around as I pleased — provided I did not disturb anything.

Everything had to be left in place, just as it was after 7.30 on Thursday evening when the missiles smashed into it with such deadly accuracy that they barely damaged adjoining buildings.

In the reception area, samples of its wares were scattered around: Shifatur, Shifamol, Shifacer. When I picked one up, Dr Alamin Shibli, the export manager, carefully replaced it. No one, he explained, must touch anything before international experts examined the site.

Dr Shibli's great hopes were pinned on the laboratory. The bulk of the plant is utterly demolished but the laboratory is the least damaged. There, amid the rubble, one can make out phials that are still discernably intact. "This is what we will show the investigators," he said. "In those bottles are the reagents that will prove what we really did here — and it had nothing to do with chemical weapons."

A leading opposition lawyer, Ghazi Suleiman, represents Salah Idriss, the owner of the Shifa plant in spite of his hostility to Sudan's Islamic government. Mr Suleiman strongly criticises the



Philippe Borel, the United Nations humanitarian co-ordinator in Sudan, gestures as he wanders through the rubble of the destroyed factory yesterday

US attacks. "The US has the right to defend itself against terrorism," he said. "But on behalf of my client, an international businessman who lives in many countries, I want to persuade the Americans that they have made a mistake. This was no chemical weapons factory; do you think that, if it was, all the country's pharmacy students would come to visit as part of their training. The Americans could not have found it equal, for quality and sophistication, in all of Sudan."

The US raid has helped the government as it faces an ever-rising sea of troubles — renewed famine in the south,

civil war, international hostility, and mounting unpopularity at home.

"The government could not be happier," said a lawyer who wished to remain anonymous. "Even if that factory really were producing chemical weapons, it could have turned the raid to its advantage, but imagine what it can make of it if it was not."

The regime, which has long occupied a prominent place on the US list of "terrorist states", clearly intends to do all it can to get the US for a kind of hi-tech terrorism of its own. It wants the Security Council to debate "this flagrant act of criminal aggression", and an on-the-spot international investigation.

The international inquiry is one part of the Sudanese government's strategy, what it conceives as a righteous and respectable one.

The other, the domestic one, is to exploit to the hilt the patriotic indignation produced by the raid and, above all, exploit it against the opposition. On Saturday President Omar Bashir addressed "the march of anger" which his government had laid on.

"Thousands of soldiers, schoolchildren and government employees, trucked in for the occasion, paraded through Khartoum shouting 'Amer-

ica must be destroyed' and 'Yesterday Nairobi, tomorrow the White House'. Mr Bashir told them that, with its raid, the US had 'opened the doors of holy war and paradise' to a people familiar 'with the sweetness of martyrdom'."

But his strongest rhetoric was reserved for the exile opposition, a coalition of Arab and other Muslim northerners and African southerners. John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation army controls large segments of the south: the Arab-Muslims have more recently seized border regions in the Kassala and Port Sudan areas of the

north. "There are those who are much worse than Clinton," he said, "and they are Sudanese. It was these 'traitors', according to yesterday's banner headlines, 'who admitted urging the US to strike.' They were trying to 'climb to power on American shoulders'."

This is just the kind of demagoguery, said Mr Suleiman, to which the raid was bound to give rise. "We are invited to find ourselves looking to the sky" — for the external enemy — "instead of where the real problems lie, which is right here, on the ground, and of our government's making."

'Soon, I will go back to jihad. First, America'

In Peshawar, victims speak to Suzanne Goldenberg

AMERICA'S strike on the Afghan training camps of Osama bin Laden left the millionaire Saudi militant's bases relatively intact, and may have bred new disciples among the men who became the unintended targets of Washington's wrath.

At the worst-hit site in a cluster of six camps in the barren mountains near the eastern Afghan town of Khost, the men were asleep in their tents when there was a flash of light, a piercing whistle, and an explosion.

"I'd never seen anything like it," said Ahmed Sarwar, a Pakistani who has spent 19 years fighting in Afghanistan. "At first I thought it was a bomb, but then I knew it couldn't be because I saw a shining object with a lot of fire in its tail."

He was at the Khalid bin Walid camp, a group of 10 tents housing trainees for a splinter group of the Harkat-ul-Ansar. The Pakistan-based extremist group is blamed for the kidnap and murder of four Western tourists — including Britons Keith Mann and Paul Welle — in Indian-controlled Kashmir three years ago. Last year, the US state department branded it a terrorist group.

Mr Sarwar was sleeping 20 feet from the spot where the closest cruise missile landed. He said the strikes left six or seven craters — "big enough to hold a small car".

The nearby Amir Muawaiyah camp, which also was destroyed by fire and burning metal, likewise belonged to Pakistani-based extremists training not to fight America but to fight Indian rule in disputed Kashmir.

The third camp hit was the al-Badr camp for Arab mili-

tants, which does belong to Mr Bin Laden. All three camps are relics of the 1979-89 Afghan war when outside recruits came to fight the occupying Soviet army.

As described by visitors and recent occupants, the camps bear little resemblance to picture Washington has painted of its target — a sophisticated "university for terrorists".

The men slept in the open or in crude tents. The one solid building at Khalid bin Walid camp was the mosque, destroyed when a nearby munitions depot exploded. A Pakistani reporter who visited Harkat training camps last May said the fighters were armed, only with Kalashnikovs and rocket propelled grenades.

Mr Bin Laden's disciples at the al-Badr camp were a three-hour walk away, Mr Sarwar said. "It couldn't have been a mistake by the US," he said. "It was deliberate. We are pretty far from that camp."

Of the 21 killed by the US attack, eight were Arab, suggesting Mr Bin Laden's network was left relatively intact. The Harkat lost a commander, Abu Haraira.

Although Washington says it fired more than 70 missiles on Mr Bin Laden's Afghan bases, eyewitnesses can so far account for only 20. And they claim the missiles landed on three camps — and not the six cited by Washington.

Lying with severe burns at Peshawar's Hayatabad hospital, Habib-ur-Rehman, a 24-year-old Pakistani, waits to learn if he will walk again. America and Jews, he says, "have taken on Muslims, but they don't know what they have got themselves into. Thank god Osama is safe."

Mohammed Khalid, aged 22 and from the Pakistani city of Multan, is in high spirits though his head is bandaged. He was still too green to be sent to Kashmir. Now the battlefield has changed: "Soon, I will go back to jihad, god willing. First we will go to America, then to Kashmir."

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مكتبة الصلح

Blair and Taoiseach disagree over whether Omagh is 'final event' of 29 years of Troubles □ 'Amateurs' become last group still at war

PM prepares anti-terror package for Ulster visit

Michael White, Richard Norton-Taylor and John Miffin

TONY Blair's counter-terrorism measures to match the Irish government's approach to the Irish Republic will be the subject of a visit to Belfast and beyond.

One sign of sensitivity came yesterday over his reported optimism that the 28 deaths at Omagh would prove to be the "final horrific event" of 29 years of the Troubles. The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, warned that such hopes were misplaced.

"I'd love to say to you that I believe this is the last event... But I think there is a small element, and they are small, who do not share that feeling," he told BBC's Breakfast.

But the prospect that the security services will win a campaign to have evidence obtained by telephone tapping admitted in court proceedings is receding, sources hinted. An amendment to the 1988 Interception of Communications Act would mean a brief recall of both Houses of Parliament, which ministers wish to avoid.

On Saturday, a week after the Omagh bomb, the Irish National Liberation Army announced it was ending its 23-year campaign of violence. The group was responsible for about 100 killings, including many of its own members murdered during four bouts of internal feuding.

In 1979 the INLA assassinated Airey Neave, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, at Westminster, and more latterly, just after Christmas shot dead the Loyalist Volunteer Force leader, Billy Wright, in the Maze prison.

With Unionist and nationalist communities in the province anxious for reassurance,

Mr Blair will tomorrow be treading a political tightrope during what is expected to be an overnight visit to Belfast and beyond.

One sign of sensitivity came yesterday over his reported optimism that the 28 deaths at Omagh would prove to be the "final horrific event" of 29 years of the Troubles. The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, warned that such hopes were misplaced.

"I'd love to say to you that I believe this is the last event... But I think there is a small element, and they are small, who do not share that feeling," he told BBC's Breakfast.

'I'd love to say I believe this is the last event...'
Bertie Ahern

fast With Frost. "They believe that they have some kind of a mandate from some period in history that gives them some right to do this. Of course they have not."

He also predicted that the IRA would be able to move on beyond "a lot of the rhetoric of the past and the harsh words", and decommitment its weapons, as agreed, in the next two years.

Mr Ahern coupled the remark with a reference to the need "to talk about demilitarisation in an overall sense". This term is usually a coded phrase for withdrawal of British troops, and alarmed some Unionists.

Given his unqualified support last week for the United States' attacks on suspected terrorist targets, Mr Blair also surprised some MPs on

both sides of the Ulster debate in an article for yesterday's Observer when he ruled out using the SAS to "take out" known terrorists.

"Our country is a country built on democratic values" and must win the argument by democratic means, he explained.

Labour MP Tam Dalyell asked: "There are terrorists in Dundalk. Should we bomb Dundalk, or Noraid in New York?"

Unionist MPs are suspicious of government rhetoric for the opposite reason. The Democratic Unionist Party's Peter Robinson last night warned that both London and Dublin would miss a vital opportunity if they did not impose tougher measures while both communities were outraged by the Omagh bomb.

"Support for such action will not be there for long," he said.

With the Blair family still on holiday until today, ministers and officials, led by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, are still working on the measures promised last week.

Most of the measures the Irish government has said it will introduce are already enshrined in Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act and the 1996 FTA (Additional Powers Act) which gives the police wide-ranging powers to arrest, detain, question, stop and search.

The power to imprison suspects for being members of a proscribed terrorist organisation on the sworn evidence of a single senior police officer — will not need a change in primary legislation. Downing Street suggested yesterday. The Northern Ireland Office confirmed that the Real IRA, which admitted responsibility for the Omagh bomb, was already such a proscribed organisation; no legal change was needed.



Mourners in Omagh on Saturday. Below, the car bomb in a picture released by the RUC and taken seconds before by a camera found in the rubble



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: LOUISA BULLER

Continuity IRA becomes lone hawk as INLA shuns terror

John Miffin
Ireland Correspondent

AND then there was one. The Irish National Liberation Army's decision to end its 23-year campaign of violence, means that, among the myriad of republican and loyalist terrorist groups, only the tiny Continuity IRA is still on a war footing.

Yet, although opposed to the Good Friday Agreement and the multi-party negotiations preceding it, CIRA, also called the Continuity Army Council, stands apart for another reason. It is the only terror outfit never to have killed anybody.

Always a small organisation, it is now made up of at most two dozen volunteers. It came to the security forces' attention soon after the first IRA ceasefire was called in 1984, when it received bomb-making equipment from IRA dissidents opposed to the cessation.

When it emerged three years ago, CIRA claimed to be the final custodian of a 32-County republic.

It exploded a 1,250lb car bomb in July 1996, five months after the IRA's first ceasefire collapsed and at the height of that year's Drumcree crisis.

Then there was the 1,000lb van bomb which ripped through the Protestant village of Markethill, County Armagh, last September. It was blamed to the security forces' attention soon after Sinn Féin won its place at Stormont's negotiating table when it affirmed to the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence governing the talks process.

There were again no injuries in the bombing of the RUC station, the group's first successful targeting of a military installation. But, although CIRA was blamed, it is likely that IRA dissidents were closely involved. They were then on the point of quitting the IRA over Sinn Féin's participation at Stormont.

The dissidents soon went on to form the new group later calling itself the Real IRA. Its leaders saw CIRA as a well-meaning, amateurish bunch, with limited usefulness.

The organisations did work together, though, along with the INLA, responsible for 100 deaths since 1975, many of its own members were killed in four bouts of internal feuding.

When the Real IRA was founded, its chief of staff, the IRA's former quartermaster-general, successfully pleaded with several of CIRA's leading figures to switch sides. Those who did were the most able operatives, largely

recent recruits from the IRA, and CIRA has since been dubbed a Dad's Army.

It is linked to Republican Sinn Féin, founded after a split with the Gerry Adams-Martin McGuinness leadership at Sinn Féin's 1997 annual conference, in 1986. The row was over Sinn Féin's decision to take up any seats it won to the Irish Parliament, regarded by RSF as a partitionist body.

RSF is led by Ruairi O'Bradaigh, a former IRA chief of staff. It has an estimated 800 members, and is the most fundamentalist of all republican political parties. It is unlikely that the RSF will change its analysis, as the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the political wing of INLA, did, signalling its shift to ceasefire. Assuming the Real IRA's suspension of military operations becomes permanent, that will make CIRA the repository of headline republicans once again.

Whether CIRA is prepared to put civilian lives at risk again is a key factor in de-

CIRA sees itself as true to values of trade unionist executed in 1916

termining the future for violent republicanism.

While republicans are keeping a low profile, CIRA's rhetoric will be undiminished. It sees itself as defender of the faith, true to the values of trade unionist James Connolly, one of those executed in the Easter Rising of 1916.

A Joint Easter message from the political and military wings in Saeirise, RSF's newspaper, accused Sinn Féin of making it harder to overthrow British rule by its imminent participation in the Good Friday Agreement. The deal was no stepping-stone to Irish unity.

It read: "We note the continuing campaign of the Continuity IRA, who, by their activities, have brought to the notice of the British government and all concerned that English rule in Ireland is being resisted and always will be resisted, no matter how such rule is camouflaged."

"In the name of all those honoured dead down the centuries and over the decades, we renew our appeal for support in order that their sacrifices not be in vain. Let us now confront reality and not delude ourselves with vain hopes. The British government will depart from our shores when compelled to do so, and not before."

Extracts from the INLA's ceasefire declaration

WE HAVE accepted the advice and analysis of the Irish Republican Socialist Party that the conditions for armed struggle do not exist.

The Irish National Liberation Army has now shifted from the position of defence and retaliation to the position of complete ceasefire.

We have instructed all our units to desist from offensive actions. The Irish National Liberation Army is now on ceasefire...

In calling this cessation we recognise that the political situation has changed since the formation of the INLA. We recognise that armed struggle can never be the only option for revolutionaries...

Although we believe the Good Friday Agreement was not worth the sacrifices of the past 30 years and are still politically opposed to it, the people of the island of Ireland have spoken clearly as to their wishes.

The working classes have borne the brunt of the consequences of the war for the past three decades. They have also suffered repression, social deprivation, unemployment and poverty.

We recognise their desire for a cessation of violence expressed through the referendum and for a peaceful future.

The onus is now on all political parties, governments and observers to ensure

that the democratic wishes of the Irish people are upheld. This includes all armed groups. Therefore we have taken this ceasefire decision to take account of the people's desires.

Now we turn to the consequences of our part in the war. We acknowledge and admit faults and grievous errors in our prosecution of the war. Innocent people were killed and injured and at times our actions as a

liberation army fell far short of what they should have been.


For this we as republicans, as socialists and as revolutionaries do offer a sincere, heartfelt and genuine apology. It was never our intention, desire or wish to become embroiled in sectarian or internecine warfare.

We accept responsibility for our part in actions which hindered the struggle. Those actions

should never have happened.

We have, however, nothing to apologise for in taking the war to the British and their loyalist henchmen. Those who preyed on the blood of nationalists paid a heavy price.


However, the will of the Irish people is clear. It is now time to silence the guns and allow the working classes the time and opportunity to advance their demands and their needs...



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Reshuffle stacks deck against Yeltsin

Who really brought back Chernomyrdin? James Meek asks

BEING obliged to recall a prime minister just five months after his election — so grave that it may signal the beginning of the end of his hold on the presidency.

Until Mr Yeltsin appears in public to explain his latest action, there will be doubts whether he wanted to bring back Victor Chernomyrdin, the forces to do so against his wishes.

That Sergei Kiriyenko, the young banker and former energy minister, should be sacked as prime minister after Russia's long-running financial crisis boiled over is no surprise. But for Mr Yeltsin to turn to the man who five months ago laid the groundwork for the crisis is a sign either that the head of state is completely out of touch with the realities of his country or that he was left with no choice by a political elite intent on protecting its interests at all costs — including, perhaps, his own family.

The political reincarnation of Mr Chernomyrdin brings no clear benefits for anyone apart from Mr Chernomyrdin himself and whoever helped propel him back into the government.

Mr Yeltsin is unlikely to have taken the decision without consulting his closest advisers: the head of his administration, Valentin Yumashev, his daughter, Tatiana Dyachenko, and his press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky. But ever since Mr Chernomyrdin was sacked, the Kremlin

has faced steady criticism from another quarter: wealthy business "oligarchs" such as Boris Berezovsky, who bankrolled Mr Yeltsin's election campaign.

The president sacked Mr Chernomyrdin because he feared that his power was beginning to rival his own, and because the prime minister was incapable of coping with the looming debt mountain. But his departure deprived both the Yeltsin entourage and the business elite of their most important asset: protection.

If Mr Yeltsin died or became too ill to rule, the reasoning went, the elite would need to ensure a smooth transition of power to someone who would not try to prosecute them or reclaim their dubiously-acquired wealth. They feared the election of a popular patriot, such as Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, or the ex-paratrooper general Alexander Lebed. Mr Chernomyrdin was one of them.

In recent months, however, the fear of Mr Chernomyrdin usurping the president have been overcome by the fear of their leader being usurped by someone far more dangerous.

Mr Chernomyrdin has been catapulted back into the position of the man most likely to succeed Boris Yeltsin. If the president dies, is incapacitated or resigns, the prime minister will take over his job for three months before elections. This would give him ample time to fix a victory — and he is so unpopular that it is hard to imagine him winning a free and fair vote.

Mr Chernomyrdin's appointment changes little in



Viktor Chernomyrdin For six years the quintessential right-hand man before being sacked earlier this year. Analysts said he had accumulated too much power for Yeltsin's liking

the short term. The famously inarticulate former gas-nomopoly boss is not the national demon the West has long feared Russia's chaos would conjure up: he is a conservative apparition without an ideology who presided passively over the country's paralytic economic and political slide into chaos. English-speaking ministers at Western lenders to secure loans.

"In the past the driving force of Victor Chernomyrdin has been to carry on sitting in

the prime minister's chair," the commentator Alexander Bekker said. "If he continues that line, nothing good will come of it."

The queues outside banks as desperate savers try to withdraw their cash will not get shorter. The stock market will not revive. Western financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, know the kind of government Mr Chernomyrdin ran and would not give extra credits under his guarantee.

As they hurled abuse at Mr Kiriyenko last Friday, parliamentarians declared: "There is no government." But now there really is no government — Mr Chernomyrdin has to be confirmed by the Duma before he formally takes office.

Why did Mr Yeltsin bring him back? At a time of crisis, with the falling ruble yet to find its floor, with the banking system on the verge of collapse, with strikes, religious unrest in the North Caucasus and the unpaid wage bill on

The players



Boris Berezovsky Oil and media baron, secretary of CIS. Master of Kremlin intrigue said to take care of Yeltsin finances



Tatyana Dyachenko The daughter and official image consultant to Yeltsin. One of his few conduits to the Kremlin



Valentin Yumashev Chief adviser and 'son' Yeltsin never had



Sergei Yastrzhembsky Spokesman 'explains' Yeltsin thoughts

playing one group off against another, in confounding his opponents with arbitrary decrees and acts of caprice. His sacking of Mr Chernomyrdin in March was just such a move, but many powerful figures warned he had gone too far.

It is premature to talk in terms of a palace coup. Yet for most of last week, as the ruble spiralled and Western creditors went ballistic over Mr Kiriyenko's debt default, the president remained silent,

eschewed in his country residence.

The end of the short prime ministerial career of Sergei Kiriyenko is not an earthquake. The reappointment of a discredited bureaucrat is another step towards the degeneration of Russia's rulers in the eyes of their people and of the world.

Like the rouble, Russian government is devalued.

Marketa Brown, page 11
Larry Elliott, page 12

Cape vineyard toasts bright new beginning

Work is a labour of love for a Paarl collective, Alex Duval Smith writes

IN A BREAK from pruning and trellising vines on a slope of the rolling western Cape, Solly Skippers pointed across the valley. "If I worked over there, on the Smil farm, I would be an alcoholic. They still use the dop system and the labourers are treated like we used to be," he said.

By an accident of geography, Mr Skippers, aged 46, no longer suffers the mind-numbing terms of many South African vineyard labourers: 220 a week and eight lots of alcohol a day. He is one of 17 stakeholders in a farmworkers' collective which this year sold 50,000 litres of white and red wine, under its New Beginnings label, to the country's supermarkets.

Mr Skippers, foreman at the Nelson's Creek vineyard in Paarl, said: "I am teetotal, but before Mr Nelson bought this land in 1989 the old owners handed out tots when we woke up, then at 8am, 8.30am, 11am, midday, 12.30pm, 4pm and 6pm. They were part of our pay."

Now he and the 16 other members work both on the 120 acres owned by Alan Nelson and on the 25% acres the white Cape Town barter gave to the collective last year.



new beginnings
1998
reminiscent
chardonnay
MAIDEN VINTAGE

Members of the collective are shown on its wine labels

conference in Cape Town, Mr Titus launched an "adopt-a-row of vines" scheme. The wine maker trained ours," said Mr Skippers, one of three brothers born on the farm. "It is like crofting, in a sense. I cannot work towards giving my share in the land to my children; it is only mine so long as I work here."

Mr Nelson's gesture was groundbreaking, especially since the collective owns its land and will soon have its own access road. Many other white vineyard owners maintain some of the most exploitative employment practices.

Mr Nelson, aged 46, said: "I studied law so I would be able to afford to farm wine, but this business takes enormous investment. When I bought this farm in 1988 it was bankrupt and the vines were poor. I sat down with the workers and explained that it was my dream to make this land viable. I abolished the dop system and said that if they helped me, I would help them."

Church rallies to 'loan-shark' cardinal

John Hooper in Rome

THE cardinal's hand was trembling perceptibly. "I am experiencing a strange sort of joy," he said. "At last I feel like any other man — one of the people."

It was an odd commentary on his fellow Italians — Cardinal Michele Giordano of Naples had just been told he was under investigation for crimes that included conspiracy in loan-sharking, extortion, embezzlement and aiding and abetting money-laundering.

Giorgio Rumi, a historian, said he could not recall any churchman linked with such serious offences in Italy since the country's unification, "much less a member of the ecclesiastical hierarchy of such importance."

On Saturday around 30 officers of the finance police raided the Naples archbishop's palace and confiscated computers, disks, accounting ledgers and bank documents.

Cardinal Giordano's lawyer, Enrico Tuccillo, said the police action, against one of the most senior figures in the Italian church, was "totally unjustified."

Several senior churchmen



Cardinal Giordano and lawyer Enrico Tuccillo talk to journalists. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCO CASTANO

said they doubted that the 67-year-old cardinal could have been knowingly involved in the offences.

Cardinal Giordano has often spoken out against organised crime in the southern city where he has worked most of his life. In May he said loan-sharking was "a sin scarcely less serious than murder."

But it was an inquiry into an alleged loan-sharking operation in his home town of Sant'Arcangelo, in the southern province of Potenza, that led the finance police to the cardinal. The search of his property came two days after his brother, Mario Giordano, was arrested in connection with the same investigation.

Finance officers found a number of cheques written by the cardinal in his brother's possession. Last week Cardinal Giordano told the daily La Repubblica that his brother had got into financial difficulties.

"My brother is a builder, a small businessman who has always worked, usually with good results, but on one occasion with disastrous results. He built a block of apartments and couldn't sell them. I gave him a series of blank cheques to help him out of his debts."

"I don't know how much the cheques that were cashed

came to — maybe 70 or 80 million lire (\$25,000-£22,000)."

The cardinal said it was his own money, not the Church's. "It was my savings from 50 years as a priest."

He said a misunderstanding had occurred because two

nephews, one an architect and the other a builder, were paid sums of money by the archdiocese for some work they had done.

The nephews then passed their cheques to Mario Giordano, leading the prosecution

ments of cash in and out of accounts for which the Cardinal was responsible. They had also found evidence of sophisticated hedged investments and cash deposits of up to \$250,000.

The president of the Italian Bishop's Conference, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, expressed his "faith in, high opinion of, and brotherly friendship for, Cardinal Giordano in the certainty that the baseness of the accusations against him will soon be recognised."

Outside Naples, where he is popular among the poor, Cardinal Giordano is best known for his identification with the supposedly miraculous liquefaction of a relic kept in the city's cathedral. The purported blood of the fourth-century St Gennaro usually turns to liquid twice a year.

Disaster has struck on at least five occasions when it has not turned to liquid. At a time when many churchmen are sceptical of such manifestations, Cardinal Giordano has embraced the phenomenon and the ritual surrounding it with enthusiasm.

A priest since 1963, he was consecrated as a bishop in 1971 and appointed Archbishop of Naples 11 years ago. He was nominated Cardinal of Naples in 1988.

World Bank's green code shows red light for African oil pipeline

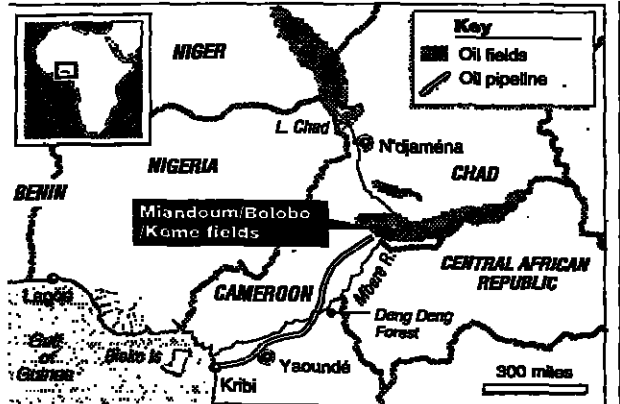
Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

AN OIL pipeline that could transform the economic future of two of Africa's poorest countries, Chad and Cameroon, is being held up by environmentalists at the World Bank, who say it does not conform to the organisation's newly-adopted green code.

The issue is causing internal strife at the bank between traditional economists, who believe that the benefits of mega-projects trickle down to the poor, and new staff who have leaked the environmental assessments to try to halt the project.

It is likely to form a test case when the \$2 billion, 1,000-mile pipeline is considered by the bank's governors in October. They include International Development Secretary, Clare Short, representing Britain.

The pipeline is to be built by a consortium of Exxon, Shell and Elf, and is expected to double the size of Chad's economy in 10 years. The first of the 900 million barrels of oil reserves is likely to reach the coast by late 2001 if the plan is approved this autumn.



Among the issues raised by the World Bank's environmental team's report, a copy of which has been sent to the Guardian, is the future of pygmy tribes in Cameroon and traditional pastoral people in both countries, whose lifestyle will be disrupted by the pipeline and the population influx it is likely to bring.

Exxon, which heads the consortium, needs the bank's backing to get \$1 billion in loans from international banks to finance the project.

It is pushing for a go-ahead before the end of the year.

Korinna Horta, from the Environment Defence Fund in Washington, where the World Bank is based, said: "Exxon is lobbying very hard at the bank and has the backing of the traditional economic lobby who are prepared to overlook the very real environmental dangers for the sake of development... But there is resistance [at the bank] because of the fate of the tribal people, who get no benefit."

Poor go direct to 'buddy' Estrada

Adam Easton in Manila

EVERY morning thousands of poor Filipinos gather at the gates of Manila's presidential palace. Some come looking for jobs, others ask for farm animals, vehicles or cash hand-outs. But all share the belief that Joseph Estrada, the new "People's President", can deliver them from poverty.

Mr Estrada, a former marine idol, banked on his huge popularity with the country's 35 million poor. He campaigned under the slogan "Erap for the masses" — his nickname is street slang for buddy — and won the largest mandate of any Philippine president this century.

He promised food, security and a revitalised agriculture. But pundits ask how a man who admits that reading a book gives him a headache can succeed where "intellectual" presidents have failed.

The South East Asian economic crisis has stacked the odds against Mr Estrada. Although the received wisdom is that the Philippines has escaped the worst of the "Asian flu", the economy is not expected to fully recover for at least a year.

The peso has lost 45 per cent of its value, unemployment is 14 per cent, and interest rates have soared.

These facts do not seem to deter the thousands of faithful at the palace gates. They queue up to appeal to the Presidential Action Centre. Upon arrival they are given forms to fill out with their requests. Most wait in vain to see officials, who can only process 500 registrations a day.

One middle-aged hopeful, Paolo Rivera, explains why he is there. "I have no formal education, which is why I am asking for a job from Erap. During the campaign he promised us jobs."

Many business leaders fear he will wait a long time. But some say the administration just needs to spend less time blaming the previous government for its problems.

"If nothing else, we've grown to be extremely resilient and persistent," says Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club. "Having clawed our way out of a very deep hole when Marcos fell, people will not sit back and let everything go to pot again."

مكتبة النهر

Angolan troops bolster Kabila

David Gough in Kinshasa

PAPA Pitchou, who was selling cigarettes outside a Kinshasa hotel yesterday, said he did not expect the rebels to reach the capital. "Our army and our allies are stronger than the rebels; they will defeat them."

President Laurent Kabila's government says the rebellion is being led by the governments and military of Rwanda and Uganda, and that Congo's call for help from neighbouring countries is a response to "a foreign invasion of sovereign territory".

A lorryload of Zimbabwean troops was seen driving through Kinshasa yesterday as unconfirmed reports reached the capital of a successful Angolan attack on Kisangani on the Atlantic coast. The reports claimed that the Angolans had captured the city's airport.

That will be a serious blow to the rebel movement, which had been using the airport to ferry troops to the west of the country from their eastern stronghold, the town of Goma. A Western diplomat in Kinshasa said the rebels had suffered another defeat, in the town of Mbandaka, 85 miles south-west of the capital, which had been retaken by Congolese forces.

The rebels said they had taken the strategic northern town of Kisangani, the Congo's third largest town. The government denied the report. According to diplomatic sources, the military situation remains confused and is best described as fluid.

What is without doubt is that the arrival of foreign troops has considerably boosted President Kabila, and the sight of Zimbabwean troops in Kinshasa in lorries loaded with ammunition has

bolstered his army's sagging morale.

It will also have gone a long way towards reassuring the people of Kinshasa, who remain remarkably calm in the face of what seems an inexorable rebel advance.

Djuma, a 21-year-old shopkeeper in the southern suburb of Binza, said he was not nervous about reports that the rebels were closing in on Kinshasa. "Very soon the rebels will be kicked out by the Zimbabweans and the Angolans."

He said some people, particularly whites, had fled their homes in Binza in the last few days, but said their fear was unfounded. "Everything will be fine," he said.

In the Kasa-Vubu district of the city, the Rev Fernando Kuthino said he did not know which side God would take in the rebellion, but he thought the devil was behind the "foreign invasion".

His morning service at the Miracle Church centre yesterday was attended by thousands of worshippers. The congregation was so large that it spilled over the walls of the church compound and into the streets outside. Loudspeakers carried the words of the minister to the surrounding neighbourhood.

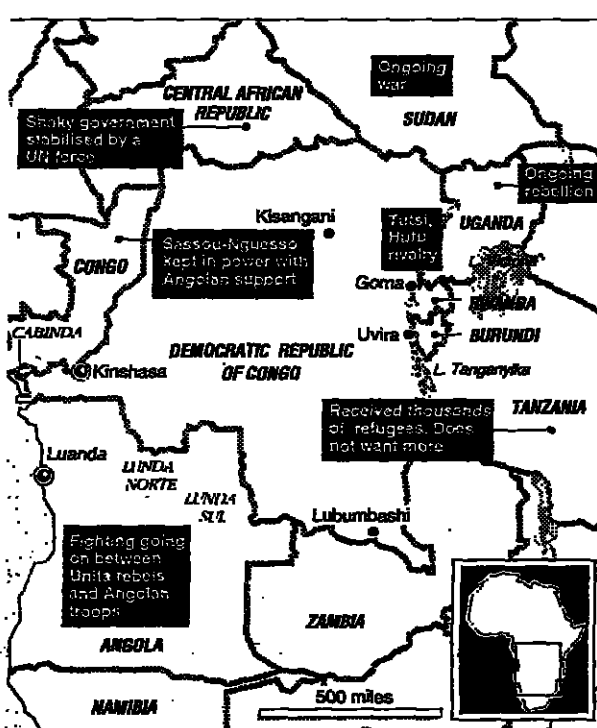
Like most of the five million residents of Kinshasa, Mr Kuthino believes foreigners are leading the rebellion. In particular, Rwanda and Uganda with the tacit support of France, America and Britain.

Mr Kuthino's parish co-ordinator, Timothy Bompere, said more people than usual had attended the service, but he insisted that the mood of the congregation remained calm.

"I don't think our own army can cope with the situation but now that our allies have arrived we are confident of victory."



Rebels brandish machetes in the town of Sona Bata, 60 miles south of Kinshasa. Their leaders claimed yesterday to have taken Congo's third city, Kisangani. PHOTOGRAPH: CORNELL DUKA



Fearful African leaders urge ceasefire

Alex Duval Smith in Johannesburg

AFRICAN leaders meeting in Pretoria called for a ceasefire and troop standstill in the Congo last night, fearful that the country's civil war could escalate into a regional conflict.

The unanimous decision of the heads of state and representatives of 18 countries at the four-hour meeting was announced by the South African president, Nelson Mandela.

But it seemed unlikely that their call for a negotiated settlement to end the three-week rebellion would be reflected on the ground where Zimbabwean and Angolan troops are now fighting the rebels.

Even if it is successful, the agreement at the emergency summit — to which

the rebels were not invited — does not mean that Mr Kabila's position is secure. South Africa, along with the United States and France, want a negotiated settlement which could see him deposed.

South Africa is backed by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Botswana and Mozambique. They are opposed by Zimbabwe and Angola.

Yesterday's meeting came at a time of rising concern that the conflict could spill over into the nine countries that border the Congo. Zimbabwe and Angola say that allowing Mr Kabila to fall could lead to the Balkanisation of Congo, and there are fears that such a breakdown could have a devastating impact on sub-Saharan Africa.

In Angola, UNITA rebels and government troops are fighting on the Congo bor-

der. If elements close to the rebels get into power in Congo, there could be a major influence in Kinshasa.

In Congo-Brazzaville, President Sassou Nguesso is sustained in power with Angolan support.

In the Central African Republic, the government is shaky, stabilised by a United Nations force but constantly facing coups.

Many in the CAR army are from the same ethnic group as the former Zaire dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutists are funding the Congolese rebels.

Uganda and Rwanda would like Mr Kabila replaced by a more sympathetic government. Uganda is fighting rebels backed by the Congolese province of Kivu.

Burundi is still facing Hutu insurgencies from

Congo. It would benefit from Mr Kabila's demise.

Tanzania has born the brunt of all recent refugee crises in the region. It does not want an influx of Bantu from Katanga — Mr Kabila's home territory — or of Hutus from Congo.

Zambia is hedging its bets. It is used as a conduit for arms to all sides. It will be in a tricky position if Mr Kabila retreats to Katanga in the south of Congo or Unita gains influence.

Zimbabwe has strong business links with Congo. It is owed an estimated \$100 million from contracts with Mr Kabila's regime.

Namibia, through business links, is owed an estimated \$20 million by Mr Kabila. However, after sending arms to him last week, Namibia is believed to have been brought into line by South Africa.

German rivals step up election pace

In a campaign without issues, personalities may decide the outcome, writes Ian Traynor

THE race between the chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and Gerhard Schröder to lead Germany into the next millennium moved into high gear at the weekend, with a gruelling schedule of nationwide election rallies in an increasingly close contest.

While Mr Kohl and his senior Christian Democrat lieutenants went on parade before almost 20,000 people in the industrial town of Dortmund yesterday, Mr Schröder and most of the Social Democratic shadow cabinet rushed through a whistle-stop tour of Berlin, Munich and Bonn.

Beer and bratwurst, bombastic rock music, and hot-air

balloons accompanied Mr Schröder across the country as he peddled his central message that Mr Kohl was a burnt-out case after 16 years in power, and that Germany urgently needed a change of leadership and direction.

The chancellor, playing on his credentials as a weighty international statesman, undergirded his campaign with "world class for Germany", sought to portray his rival as an opportunist who would drift away from the advances of the Kohl years.

An opinion poll yesterday put the Social Democrats four points ahead of the Christian Democrats, at 42 to 38. In the personal popularity stakes,



Kohl: Playing on reputation as weighty world statesman

Mr Schröder maintains a 22-point lead over Mr Kohl.

In the absence of any clear-cut political differences in a campaign marked more by mudslinging than debate of issues, commentators say the

September 27 general election may come down to a personality contest between Mr Kohl and Mr Schröder.

While Mr Kohl presents himself as Mr Reliability, Mr Schröder appears as the agent of dynamism, tapping into a diffuse national yearning for change. The key to victory lies in winning the support of the estimated 40 per cent of voters who are undecided.

While there is little to separate the two centrist parties, the Kohl campaign focused yesterday on trying to present the election as a polarised choice. Wolfgang Schäuble, Mr Kohl's number two, described it as a "choice of direction between the governing centre-right coalition and a leftwing 'red-green' alliance of Social Democrats and environmentalists."

Mr Schröder's campaign, by contrast, is concentrating on the middle ground, seek-



Schröder: Tapping a diffuse yearning for change

ing to woo traditional Kohl supporters and the don't-knows, and keeping open the option of a "grand coalition" between Social and Christian Democrats, the most popular outcome among the electorate

and the one believed most likely by pundits and voters.

But there is no room for Mr Kohl in a such a scheme and yesterday he promised that "there will not be a grand coalition", although one of his campaign aides contradicted that view.

By the banks of the Rhine on Saturday evening, Mr Schröder, hoarse from a punishing round of campaigning, promised that an SPD-led government would stand or fall on its record in cutting unemployment, and appealed to the less well-off by playing on his poor-boy origins in post-war northern Germany. "I know where I come from and I know where I belong," he declared.

With unemployment falling to nearly 4 million after nudging a record 6 million earlier this year, Mr Kohl claimed credit for tackling what is the key election issue.

News in brief

Aung San Suu Kyi's doctors kept away

BURMA'S military government has barred doctors from visiting the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is suffering from kidney problems, her political party, the National League for Democracy, said yesterday.

She has entered the 12th day of a protest, camped in a van with three colleagues on a rural road 19 miles from the capital Rangoon.

The regime, which restricts her right to travel outside Rangoon, has refused to let her visit the city of Bassein, where she intended to meet members of her party.

"The personal physicians of Aung San Suu Kyi were not allowed to see her," said Tin On, the vice-chairman of the NLD. No reason was given, he said. — AP, Rangoon.

Abacha's son arrested

A TEENAGE son of the late dictator Sani Abacha was arrested at an international airport in northern Nigeria after pointing a pistol at security officers, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Sadiq Abacha was arrested on Tuesday at Kano airport, the Lagos Guardian reported, after pulling out the gun during a routine security check. He was freed after identifying himself as Abacha's son. He had two loaded pistols and an unknown amount of foreign currency. — AP, Lagos.

Hurricane strengthens

A HURRICANE in the Atlantic has strengthened to become a 300-mile-long storm skirting sparsely populated Bahamian islands on a route that could threaten the eastern United States. Meteorologists warned Florida residents to be ready to "take quick action" if Hurricane Bonnie changed course, saying it could hit the coast with winds of more than 110 mph. — AP, Nassau.

Gaudi 'deserves sainthood'

THE Vatican should consider bestowing the Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí, the Archbishop of Barcelona said. The creator of the city's still-incomplete Sagrada Família Cathedral and other eye-catching modernist buildings worked through "deep and constant contemplation of the mysteries of faith", Bishop Ricard Maria Carles told parishioners.

"Antonio Gaudí, architect, universal Catalan and lay mystic, deserves to be studied as a candidate for sainthood," he said. Gaudí died in 1926. — AP, Barcelona.

Card players trump computer

ARTIFICIAL intelligence lost out to humans in the first international bridge showdown between 34 of the world's top players and a computer program called GIB.

Michael Rosenberg, an American aged 44, won the gold medal in the par contest in Lille, CIB, or "Goren in a Box", named in honour of Charles Goren, who helped to popularise bridge in the 1940s — finished in 12th place. Loaded in a personal computer, it had been favoured to win.

About 5,000 players from 80 countries are competing in the World Bridge Championships in the French city. — AP, Lille.

'Lucky' stones injure 800

A TRADITIONAL stone-throwing battle between rival villages in central India left 800 people injured. Twenty-five people were in a critical condition after residents of the two villages near Chhindwara, in Madhya Pradesh state, lined up across a river to hurl stones and abuse at one another. Getting injured is considered a good omen. — AP, New Delhi.

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Sumatran mass graves found

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THE remains of 21 bodies were unearthed from multiple graves at the weekend by Indonesian human rights commissioners in the north Sumatran province of Aceh.

The discovery reinforces locals' claims that atrocities were committed by the army during the regime of the dictator Suharto. Watched by hundreds of people, the investigators dug up 12 sets of remains at one site and nine bodies at three other locations.

Baharuddin Lopa, the team leader and secretary-general of the country's human rights commission, said the remains were incontestable proof of human rights violations.

"I don't want to hear any government official pretend that the widespread killing of civilians during the military operations in Aceh never occurred," he said. He added that one site, at Bukit Sentang in the far north, might contain more than 100 bodies.

The team took the remains to north Sumatra's main city, Medan, for further examination. The exhumations are expected to continue tomorrow. The Jakarta Post quoted

Yusuf Kasim, the village chief in 1991 when many of the victims were buried at Bukit Sentang, as saying he had lost count of the number of people buried there.

He said many of the victims had been brought to the site alive. Some were forced to kneel at the edge of a pit and shot at point-blank range. "Others were shoved into the grave and asked to lay side by side, like the salted fish you see in the market, before their bodies were riddled with bullets," he said.

Local organisations estimate the number of victims at anywhere between 3,000 and 39,000. Most of the killings are thought to have been committed between 1989 and 1992, at the height of the separatist rising. Hundreds of women were reportedly raped by soldiers.

In 1991 Aceh was made a military operations area, giving the army a free rein to crush the separatists. Two weeks ago General Wiranto, the armed forces commander, lifted the special status, apologised for any human rights violations and promised to withdraw all but the local territorial troops. The first batch of special forces left last week.

Alex Bellis in Rio de Janeiro

BBETTER known for its tropical beaches, Brazil is an unlikely haven of Celtic culture, but it is home to the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky.

Claive Vidiz has collected more than 3,000 different bottles of it, including some more than 100 years old, at his private museum in the industrial city of Sao Paulo.

Now recognised as a whisky expert, he is often consulted by drinks companies as they launch new brands, and the heads of foreign distilleries.

"I agree it's totally crazy," he said. "It would be like me going to Glasgow and collecting the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky (Brazilian sugar cane spirit)."

For his work as an ambassador for whisky, Mr Vidiz has been awarded the highest honour by the whisky community. He was made a Keeper of the Quaich in 1991, a title shared with Prince Charles and Ronald Reagan.

In a week's time Mr Vidiz, the retired managing director of a petrochemical

company, will inaugurate the Brazilian chapter of The Keepers of The Quaich, confirming Brazil's importance to whisky culture.

Germany is the only other country with a chapter. Mr Vidiz built his museum in the 1980s. Next to it he built a Scottish pub, which has original features such as a dartboard, bagpipes and maps of the homeland. He commissioned a Brazilian carpenter to make pub stools based on measurements and designs from Scotland.

His passion for whisky is common in Brazil, where it is regarded as a symbol of luxury. The Association of Brazilian Whisky Collectors has more than 400 members.

The whisky market in Latin America is booming. Exports to Brazil were up 10 per cent per cent last year, making it the second largest market in the region after Venezuela.

Mr Vidiz believes Brazilians and whisky were made for each other, partly because Brazilians love status symbols. "It's just like Scotland here," he said. "If you don't take a very good Scotch to a party, the party will be no good."

Comment

e-mail

Ian Traynor
@Bonn

THEIR hungry faces pressed against the plate-glass of a hugely successful Scandinavian department store, the consumers of Cologne clamoured for entry to the shoppers' temple — hundreds of punters desperate to spend their money confronting electronic doors which defiantly refused to open.

A little notice on the door explained why. "Dear customers, the works council is having a meeting. The store opening has been delayed for two hours." And that was that. Tough luck. Stand around in the wind or rain and wait to be admitted.

If the megastore seemed less than keen on parting you from your D-marks, you could always try the ubiquitous fruit and veg markets which decorate every German town centre. Except that the vendors are liable to turn apoplectic if you finger a peach or a pear. Like the IKEA works council, the market vendors, too, have their notices posted. "No touching", warn the signs and they're most serious. "Why? I asked one potato peddler. His face creased in bewilderment, clearly unused to being questioned. "Don't ask me, you'll need to ask my boss."

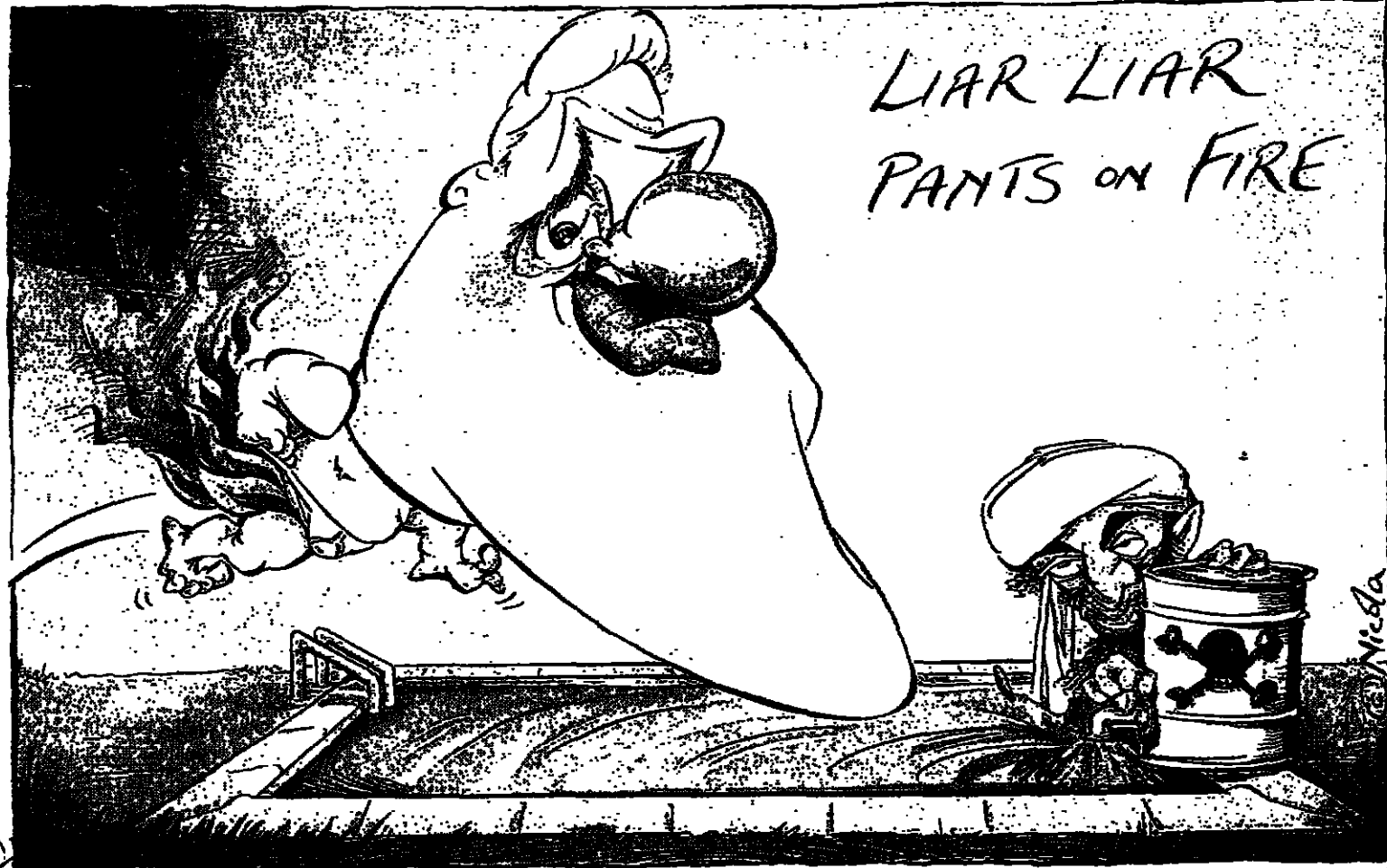
Orders are orders and rules are rules. If Anglo-Saxon retail philosophy elevates the customer to the status of king, there is nothing royal about the consumer in Germany.

Urgently needing a couple of pounds of potatoes one evening, I slipped out of the office early to rush to the Bonn market where the vendors were packing up at half past five. "Can I have a kilo of those?" I pointed longingly, confronting one stall-owner who gave a credible impression of wanting to sell potatoes. "No," he curt and devastating reply, "we're taking the rest of the night off." Tough luck.

Ever come across a market vendor who doesn't want to sell you a pound of spuds? Bonn's the place. Or flying to Prague one morning to Cologne airport. I turned up to collect the ticket and did what any "normal" traveller would do — fished out the plastic. "Sorry, no credit cards, cash only." Tough luck, yet again.

IN SHORT, in Europe's mightiest and wealthiest economy, the shopping and bingeing urge is constantly frustrated by an attitude that sees the consumer as a pest. Depending on your point of view, there is a positive aspect to the rampant client hostility. The restrictive shopping hours that so enrage Anglo-Americans living in Germany mean that the country is mercifully spared the shopping mall culture which has conquered Britain, and Sundays are a shopping-free zone.

But despite a modest relaxation of permitted opening hours decided 20 months ago, which, inter alia, allows bakers to sell fresh bread for three hours on Sundays, it's nigh impossible to get your breakfast *Brotchen* on the one day of the week you have the time to enjoy them.



LIAR LIAR
PANTS ON FIRE

With 'enemies' like these, Clinton needs candid friends — like us

Tony Benn



WHEN the news came through of the savage bomb attacks on the American Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and sympathy poured out for the injured and the relatives of those who died, it was a hideous crime that no one can condone and it raises very serious issues in the conduct of international relations to which answers must be found.

But the decision of a beleaguered president to reply by ordering air attacks, with Cruise missiles, against a pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan and targets in Afghanistan has lost much of that sympathy, especially as many innocent people have been killed or injured.

Many of those who understand the strong emotions raised in America, and the demand for action, fear that the US has begun a new cold war against its critics in the Muslim world, branding them all as terrorists. Given the widespread doubts raised about the wisdom of responding in that way, the decision of the Prime Minister to issue an immediate statement of support for these bombing raids is even more astonishing.

Britain is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, charged with acting to deal with all threats to world peace — yet we made no attempt to have the issue raised there. Britain is an active member of the European Union, now pledged to co-operate in international affairs — yet no move was made to seek the views of our partners there.

Britain plays a leading role in a Commonwealth which

includes Muslim states such as Pakistan — but they were not asked for their advice.

Once again we have seen the spectacle of London giving uncritical backing to whatever Washington decides to do — as happened over the Iraq crisis in February when the US and Britain were absolutely isolated in their desire to bomb Saddam.

The parallel with Northern Ireland, where tit-for-tat bombings have been denounced by President Clinton, and a peace process is now under way, comes readily to mind.

And in his Observer article yesterday the Prime Minister made it clear that he did not favour the use of the SAS to "take out known terrorists" — yet that is exactly what Clinton has tried to do.

It is also clear that random "punishment bombings" of nations suspected of being involved in terrorism is contrary to international law and the charter of the United Nations itself, and if adopted by others could lead the world back to the law of the jungle.

At a time when serious consideration is being given to the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal would the innocent victims of these random attacks be able to take their case there for adjudication? Another impact of this affair which has disturbed fair-minded people is the double standards in Western international policy, where Israel and Turkey are protected by the US at the Security Council while others are denounced.

Osama Bin Laden was trained and funded by the Central Intelligence Agency when the Americans were using fundamentalist Mus-

lims to undermine communism, and when terrorism against Soviet targets made you a freedom fighter. Statements attributed to Bin Laden that all Americans should be killed are part of the same wild rhetoric we heard from Reagan when he described the Soviet Union as an evil empire and won widespread backing from American fundamentalists.

History should surely now have taught us that the only effective weapon against terrorism is diplomacy designed to remove the causes

Muslim anger against the US is a response to its conduct over the Middle East, when regular UN vetoes have been used to protect Israel

of the hatred which fuels it, as we have seen in so many parts of the world.

Muslim anger against America must be understood: it is a response to the conduct of the US over the Middle East, when regular vetoes — 32 in all — have been used to protect Israel at the Security Council, and where Washington has insisted on the maintenance of the cruel sanctions against the people of Iraq, 500,000 of whom have died, when the victims have no power to overthrow the Iraqi Government.

Our "special relationship" with America is based upon

the fact that the US supplies us with nuclear weapons and helps us to pretend that they are an independent deterrent — which they are not since without the use of the American global satellite guidance system they cannot be used.

In November 1950, Prime Minister Clement Attlee flew to Washington to warn Truman not to launch a nuclear attack on Korea, and his mission was successful. That sort of plain talking by one friend to another is what a real special relationship should mean, and we need to hear it again now.

President Eisenhower was an equally candid friend when he ordered Eden to end the Suez war at a time when Britain was being told that Nasser was another Mussolini who had to be stopped at all costs.

If parliament is recalled to enact emergency legislation in Northern Ireland, Ministers must be held to account for their failure to bring some common sense to bear in this dangerous situation before it gets worse.

Meanwhile it would help us all to see our way through these dangers if we studied our history more carefully and encouraged free debates of alternatives.

Tony Benn, the longest serving MP and former chairman of the Labour Party, served in the RAF in the Middle East during the second world war, travelled widely there as Energy Secretary, and has campaigned to end the sanctions against Iraq.

A war about nothing

Peter Preston



WE FIND them odd, we English, in their obsession with things long past: the slights, the grudges, the Easter rising and the autumn fallings, the battles for forgotten spoils on forgotten spots. They seem cursed by their history. They always remember. They will remember Omagh too.

We are superior beings, we tell ourselves, because no such incubus stays with us. Our castles and stately homes are all around, a national trust. But they are merely beautiful objects, without the resonance of life. Our relevance is here and now and our memories are short. That is the modern, rational way to be.

Yet here I am, in an unknown part of a familiar country. Conimont is nothing much, a tiny town tucked away where valleys meet in the southern Vosges of Alsace Lorraine. It has a campsite and a few shops and a tourist office — but the big tourist guides do not recognise its existence. Only death defies Conimont.

There is a bare little square in front of the Mairie and an ugly monument in red stone, redeemed by the flowers which surround it. You come after a time, to look for these monuments, to pause in silence before them.

Between 1914 and 1918 — count them one by one — 273 young men from Conimont went to war and died in the trenches of shrapnel and bayonet. Emile and Leon and Paul Leduc. Henri and Charles and Albert Mougil. Albert and Joseph and Louis Mougil. Four men called Blaise and four more called Pierrat. And 10 — count them again — from the family Gemlin.

They are in no sense alone. In Gerardmer, a spa town 20 kilometres north, the memorial is a tower of grey granite, and there are over 340 names to read. In Le Ventron, a hamlet down the road, the pocket handkerchief of a grave-yard remembers 64 local souls who went to war and never returned. Across the valley in Lunel, the list — 215 names long — stands just inside the door of the church.

This is carnage on an unimaginable scale. We know, because we were taught so, that over 10 million people died in the war they called the Great War. We may recall that 900,000 or so of them were British, but we are hazy about the 1.7 million Russians and the 1.5 million young Germans and the 1.2 million called to serve the decaying hulk of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And in particular, I suspect, we do not realise that nearly 1.4 million French soldiers, their ranks neatly arranged on the stones, marched to their death.

THE memorials of Alsace Lorraine make the contrast between 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 agonisingly clear. It was the first war which killed a generation here. The lists of the second war are only 30 or 40 names long. Just over 214,000 French soldiers died in the war, and just over 284,000 Brits. The suffering in the Soviet Union and Germany was terrible for soldiers and civilians alike: the toll of the Holocaust remains an open wound. But in France, as in Britain, the Great War was the mincer. Take 64 men from a hamlet like Le Ventron and there are only the old and the grieving women left. How is it possible to forget such desolation? It does not come to us across the mists of centuries, the days of King Billy celebrated in sounding brass by men in tight suits. There are still a few, in utmost decrepitude, who remember Verdun and the Somme — just as there are many more in Conimont who were there in the winter of 1944 when the allied armies, and a French general, drove out the Germans once again. Alsace and Lorraine have changed hands and allegiances four times in what we

loosely call the modern history of Europe. How is that to be forgotten?

In many ways, of course, the memories remain. There are the poems of Sassoon and Owen and the histories and the novels. But such remembrances are not true remembrances. They dust with the years and they wither as the people who were there, the people of experience, depart the scene. Very, very soon there will be nobody left, and then what shall we make of the war to end all wars which, in fact, planted the seeds of another?

Few now choose to recall the conflict except in terms of slaughter, or lions led by donkeys. Only the small of the blooded lingers. We do not know what this war was about or who started it in any meaningful sense.

We have never seen the first world war whole and we wish to shut it from our minds. The memorials of Alsace have their subsidiary plaques to the dead of Indo-China and Algeria: more fatalities in search of a cause worth raising the flag over. Americans still divide with the lines of their civil war. They think they understand because they know what it was about. But Vietnam? What did that mean? And the Great War is yet more impenetrable. But France, along these valleys, has something to remember that makes sense. Its churches and its public buildings are still pockmarked from the fire of guns. The flowers by the graves are kept fresh every morning. Here the past is not people who died long ago and far away. It is written across the villages where people live.

We, we English, may comprehend little of this. We have moved on. But from Verdun to Strasbourg and down through the Vosges, moving on is not an option. Two monstrous wars in the century that is just end-



We have never seen the first world war whole and we shut it from our minds

ing, our century, have left their scars, and those scars are fresh like the flowers.

When Kohl or Chirac talk of the European Union, they still set its role as a keeper of the peace at the heart of the enterprise. Familiarly, British leaders stretch and suppress a yawn. Is not the peace secured? Aren't these more elderly men entrapped in their own version of history? Yet the history in Conimont is palpable. A new generation of Le Ducs own the local hotel. There are Mougils and Mougils dig in their hillside gardens. The destruction of the Gemlin clan is still a shudder of this little town are right to remember. And we, somehow, should strive to remember too.

Remember a war which left 8½ million dead, a war borne to blunder and inertia which the statesmen could not control and to which the generals in their brass had no answer. A war of miscalculation and waste and greed and redundant sacrifice. A war about nothing.

Does that sound familiar? Is the Europe of today — and the world of Sudan and Afghanistan — beyond such idiocies? You dare not hope so when you inspect the chronicle of the victims of our greatest, because most meaningless, folly. Sometimes it is not just sensible, but imperative, to remember.

Break this barrier

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

THE old familiar faces were all there — the postgraduate student who spoke nostalgically of occupations and sit-ins, the lady (with a barely noticeable foreign accent) who believed that we must stand on principle and the trade unionist who promised support and solidarity. Outside the door, there were even men — strangely old for such childish nonsense — selling Socialist Worker. It was just like old times. But sentimentalism though I am, I felt no joy at returning to the Friends' Meeting House for another protest. Most of the packed hall felt the same. Many of us, who had campaigned against assorted injustices from the poll tax to prescription charges, had hoped that after the general election we would spend our evenings peacefully at home. Last Thurs-

day evening's gathering was not entirely typical of what might be described as the traditional protest. The men and women in the body of the hall were, on average, more erudite than the crowds which had chanted "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie. Out! Out! Out!". And the cause for which we campaigned did not have the emotional appeal of Stop the War Now?

Indeed, it will be dismissed by philistines as not worth national time or effort. For we had gathered together to "keep the British Library free".

That slogan sounds like part of the dialogue for a new film version of 1984 in which a braver and more intellectual Winston Smith fights back against Big Brother by demanding that the Thought Police allow books, not written in New-speak, to be freely available. In fact, we were all objecting to the proposal that the British Library — according to the Act of Parliament under which it now operates, a "national centre for reference, study,

bibliographic and other information services" — should introduce admission charges.

The proposed fee is certainly not a fortune. And to many of the critics — amongst them — it will be well worth paying. But a morning in the manuscript room will convince most observers that £300 is more than some of the men and women working there can pay. They are not derelicts who have come out of the Roston Road cold, or eccentrics attempting to discover the date of the end of the world, but scholars and writers — or at least potential scholars and writers. The potential will never be realised if they are denied access to the books which they need to read.

It is easy to imagine the British Library as part of this country's literary past — a place where William, Duke of Gloucester, complained to Edward Gibbon, "Another damned, thick, square book! Always scribble, scribble, scribble!" and the reading room in which Karl Marx

brilliantly analysed and woefully misunderstood capitalism. In fact, it is a place where real work is done. The country would be the poorer if some of the men and women who are working there today were priced out by a charge which can be avoided.

Sir John Ashworth (chairman of the British Library and, when he was

Some people working in the British Library can't afford a fee of £300

director of the London School of Economics, principal proponent of the idea that students should pay "top-up" fees) may believe that charging is right in itself — echoing David Ricardo's notion that the "demand for free goods is infinite and, therefore, can never be met in a way which wisely allocates available resources". I, on

the other hand, do not believe that rich writers are the best writers or that rationing by price is the ideal way to distribute learning. What he and I, however, must agree is that an annual entry fee of £300 — estimated to raise £3.6 million in a full year — will make much of a hole in the £20 million deficit. Much good work will be frustrated for what, to the Government, is peanuts.

It is the apparent pointlessness of the enforced sacrifice which worries me the most — more even than the absurdity of spending so much time and money on a magnificent new library and then preventing hundreds (perhaps thousands) of readers from getting any further than Isaac Newton's statue at the gate. That financial decision must have had a sub-text, and I fear it is the view that anything worth having must be paid for.

Unfortunately the idea is contagious. If the British Library charges an entrance fee, barbarians will begin to argue that local li-

braries should do the same. Sooner or later, although European law prevents us from taxing readers, we will be paying for the right to borrow books. Then the libraries will be privatised. Do not say that it cannot possibly happen. We all said that about private prisons.

Last Thursday night all sorts of schemes were advanced for raising the money which would make the fee unnecessary. Some speakers suggested that the European Union should be asked to help. Everybody thought it absurd to spend so much on the Millennium Dome, when so little could solve the British Library's problem. The only practical solution is for Chris Smith — a minister I have been happy to praise in this column — to treat the British Library as he has treated the national museums. He should offer them an extra £25 million a year, dependent on them abandoning the idea of fees. Public opinion would do the rest. Why not write and tell him so?

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The Guardian
Monday August 24 1998
Edition Number 47263
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Tel No: 0171-278 2332
Fax No: 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Panic stations

Let's take a deep breath

THE NEXT few days are going to take a collective pace backwards and a deep breath by governments and market-makers is needed. Among near-certainties are that there will be response to the American missile strikes; we have re-entered a protracted period of high civil alert. Meanwhile problems of finance and production in Russia are going to worsen while the Japanese "reform package" will be neither speedy in effect nor revolutionary. Yet there is no world crisis. Economic conditions continue to improve on the Continent. American capitalism remains solid. Twin mistakes beckon. One talks about "the world" when problems, economic and political, are intelligible and dealable with regionally. The other raises easy false hope about long-run problems. A self-denying ordinance by those in leadership is called for: avoid programmatic utterances and the promise of big changes in behaviour in the short run.

For example, Chancellor Kohl was precipitate in saying "no more help" for Russia. It is in Germany's long-run interests for a functioning business culture to be established in Russia, whatever the precise form of government there. It is not geo-political fatalism but sound concern for Germany's future that should prompt an attitude of flexibility and patience towards Russia. Self-denial of a different kind is required from our prime minister, too, on his return this week. His tear ducts will do overtime on the approach to the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But Tony Blair above all needs objectively to map national sensibility and public policy. In kinder, gentler post-DI Britain there is really less tolerance of inequality and more acceptance that the public good costs tax revenues — or is that mood-swing something for governments to engineer, though not so far this one? Similarly in Ireland. It is impressive how a new mood walks the streets and (oddly late) there is purposeful cooperation between the Irish and British governments. But those murdered a week ago in Omagh are not the first victims identified as harbingers of a new peace. Ireland's kind of civil conflict does not just end, like conventional warfare between states. The die-hards might, this past week, have been running for cover, but they will recover their nerve.

The political settlement that might, finally, marginalise them into the status of bandits is there in outline. But making it work will take marathon and unglamorous talk sessions, the smoothing over of countless difficulties and permanent political courage — like holding to the terms of the Good Friday accord. The West must not let its preoccupation with security during the weeks to come obscure Ireland's greatest lesson. Short of genocide the bases of terrorism will dry up only if there is political accord. Has Islamic fundamentalism really been shown to be so different an historical phenomenon that it escapes entirely the logic of international relations in which states make and keep agreements with one another? The case for Palestinian statehood is a security one. And states, too, are not yet drowned in the depths of international trade and transnational ownership. One of the deadliest legacies of the period of monetarist experiment during the past two decades is economic fatalism, the belief that market forces are inexorable, that prime and finance ministers bob like corks on the seas of globalisation. Political will still matters. Saying that will not of course help the massive task of institutional construction needed in Russia, perhaps also in Japan. Saying that does not invalidate the experience and legitimate

self-interest of bankers and managers of capital. It does, however, suggest the measure of the challenge facing elected leaders in the West this week. Calm deliberation, a vintage British prime minister once said, untangles every knot. As a guide to state-manship that remains the only adage.

New class deal

Schools could get real

THOSE WHO complain about the schools' remoteness from "real life" ought to welcome the Government's proposals for getting the unemployed on New Deal schemes into the classrooms as teachers' aides. What could be more real than life on benefits and schemes so what could be more educational than the insertion of that experience into schools? The unemployed are, after all, well-equipped for education. They know a thing or two about industrial structure, "downsizing", the search for shareholder value, even that delight of central bankers' the non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment. The New Deal is not, even in the most favourable economic circumstances, even if it offered the most fitting schemes of experience-getting and training, going to guarantee all its graduates get jobs so the presence

of the unemployed in the classroom might offer students a useful glimpse of their own future. Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister leading on the new scheme, says the unemployed have unused talents. We have to hope he is right but he perhaps should have added they may also need to change their minds about the utility of formal schooling. If unemployment for some people is in some part a result of a bad time in the classroom and academic failure it wouldn't do to have that repeated. Teachers are, understandably, concerned about dilution and rightly fear a situation in which they spend as much time worrying about their assistant as attending to their students. But with training, these New Deal classroom adjuncts could be a real bonus to schools. Like Romans of old they might sit at the back with rods keeping an eye on discipline. Alternatively they might offer access to that great of classroom tuition, one to one conversation and attention. But they are going to have to enlist in the culture and approach of the school they are working in. It wouldn't do to have New Deal recruits coming fired with the teaching methods favoured by the school of hard knocks. If (there is argument but the basic point holds) fewer children per adult are engaged in teaching and learning, then more bodies in schools must be reckoned a plus.

Letters to the Editor

Everyone fails to measure up

YOU accuse the examination boards of... a lamentable exercise which would have been failed by any mathematics examiner (Leader, August 20). They are merely following the example set by successive Education Secretaries, the head of Ofsted and Guardian education correspondents. When national curriculum was introduced level 4 was set at the standard expected of the average 11-year-old and level 2 at that for the average 7-year-old. After the levels have been established the word average mysteriously disappears from later documentation. Result: publishable tests are introduced and — *quelle horreur* — approximately 50 per cent of the country's children are above average and the other 50 per cent below. Obviously this is totally unacceptable and Mr Blunkett, Mr Woodcock and the Guardian have all made it clear that they will continue to slag off teachers until 80 per cent of the country's children are above average. Denis Beaumont, Wolverhampton.

[HAVE obtained A level passes in maths and Spanish, and found each of them to require a high standard of hard work. The Spanish exam took place this summer. The maths exam was in 1997. William Malcolm, Warrington.

SOME weeks ago my electricity company told me they would soon be able to provide me with my gas supply, and it would be cheaper than purchasing it from my gas company. Today I received a communication from my gas company telling me that soon they would be able to provide my electricity, more cheaply than my electricity company. Would it make more sense if each company were to reduce the price of their product? Or perhaps it might even be better if all public utilities were nationalised. Brian Thompson, Ipswich.

SUPPOSE (Baby to spice up Posh Life, August 22) Victoria Adams knew David Beckham was the father when she felt a surreptitious kick. R E Ferner, Birmingham.

It wasn't self defence

YOU criticise the US bombing of Afghanistan and Sudan (Leader, August 22) solely from the legal perspective of Article 51 of the UN Charter. Since the terrorist attacks in east Africa were not against US territory, US armed forces or a US head of state, they do not constitute an "armed attack" for the purpose of triggering Article 51. Since Article 51 uses the term "inherent", this ensures that the right of self-defence is incorporated into the Charter and pre-dates it. However, this right of self-defence is a precise and limited concept formulated, ironically, by a former US Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, in his celebrated speech of April 24, 1823, requiring Britain to show a "necessity for self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation". None of these elements was present to justify the US attacks. Therefore, we are left with the doctrine of reprisal in order to justify the US action. On April 8, 1964, the Security Council adopted, without dissent, a resolution condemning reprisals as "incompatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations". The way to deal with an unlawful act is not to retaliate with another unlawful act. This undermines the carefully constructed rules and procedures upon which world order ultimately depends — to the detriment of us all. David A Sager, London.

THE self-defence provisions of the UN Charter are clearly designed to cover circumstances in which it is impossible or unfeasible to refer an act of aggression to the Security Council; for example, in 1990, the Kuwaiti government obviously did not need the permission of the UN to respond forcibly to the Iraqi invasion of their country. Article 51 could also be used to legitimate action if the Security Council is unwilling or unable to act, or in the face of an immediate threat, when delay could bring disaster. None of this applies to the bombing of a chemical factory or a training camp. Not only was this an illegal act, it was politically

stupid, drawing world attention away from the killing of so many innocents in Kenya and Tanzania, and giving the murderers who carried out those actions the political legitimacy they desire but do not deserve.

It is sad that the British government should feel obliged to support this unlawful stupidity, especially given the over-reaction of the Foreign Secretary to a relatively minor and benign breach of a UN resolution over Sierra Leone earlier this year. Chris Brown, Professor of Politics, University of Southampton.

SINCERELY hope that Islamic extremists really were behind last week's US Embassy bombings. It must be remembered that Islamic extremists were blamed for all recent terrorist bombs against America — but this was disproved time and again. Of course Islamic extremism is a threat to Western-style democracy but, as was shown last weekend, so is Christian extremism.

It is notable that the US chose countries which are riven with civil war and in no position to fight back. America must not ignore extremism, but neither must it launch unilateral attacks against countries too weak to defend themselves. Nick Boorer, Seaford, Lincs.

CAN we take it that Tony Blair's "total determination to wage war against terrorism wherever it strikes" and his unquestioned support for the American missile strikes mean we can expect, without any consultation with other governments, that he is planning to resolve Irish terrorism through missile strikes on the Real IRA in Dundalk? If not, could it be because he thinks the human costs in Third World countries are less important than in the west? Or is he simply mindlessly currying favour with his US mentors? Prof Vic Allen, Keighley, W Yorks.

TONY Blair's hurried support for Clinton's war on terrorism surely have more to do with reciprocity rather than

pooling. Last year, the US invested almost twice as much in Britain (£9.4bn) as in the rest of the EU, and Britain accounted for two-thirds of all European investment in America.

With extra commercial advantages from both allowing US spy bases to operate here and having nuclear power standing thanks to American weaponry and back-up, the priority for Blair between possible reprisals on a few civilians and serious harm to Britain's financial status from criticising Clinton, was easy. It's the economy, stupid. Max Hess, Folkestone, Kent.

LIKE most people, I find it difficult to swallow "terrorism". However, your headline "Clinton takes revenge" (August 21) exposes a human instinct that condemns us to further atrocities. Isn't it clear that if powerful countries do not seek to act justly within the law then we need to? Bombing has not the same as bringing to justice. How many innocent people have been killed this time?

It is a pity that our own government can be so avid a supporter of this alienating strategy. Philip Lodge, St Helena, Merseyside.

ALTHOUGH the formal declaration may be somewhat delayed, we have just seen the beginning of the third world war. John Griffith, Marlow, Bucks.

WE have all made too much of President Clinton's association with Monica Lewinsky. When Clinton has his hands down his trousers rather than his finger on the button, the world must surely be a safer place. Rebecca Sissons, Horsbarn, West Sussex.

IN the 1960s, the slogan of Bill Clinton's hippy generation was: "Make love, not war". Is he now adopting, in the manner of so many middle-aged apostates, another, opposing, motto: "Make war, not love"? Alan Waters, Lancaster.



Sick and tired of disability myths

WHEN will you stop taking government propaganda uncritically and swallowing it whole (Disability myths at 'benefits cuts', August 22)? This old canard about people deciding to live the life of Riley by going to their friendly GP and getting signed off sick is completely untrue.

This was the story put about by the Tories as an excuse to reform Invalidity Benefit, which they did some years ago, replacing it with Incapacity Benefit. Access to it is not controlled by GPs. Claimants must fill out a lengthy questionnaire and then go to a medical examination conducted by the Benefits Agency's own doctors.

If these are the sympathetic doctors referred to in your story, then I'm sure the Bene-

fits Agency would like to know. In fact, welfare rights workers spend a great deal of time challenging the reality of these medical examinations, which are overwhelming against the claimant, and winning a large percentage at appeal.

As for there being no review of benefit, that is also plainly wrong. Benefits can be reviewed at any time for a number of reasons. Please stop doing the Government's dirty work for it in publishing this constant stream of malicious, mendacious mythology aimed at destroying the principle of national insurance and making disabled people pay the cost. Rochelle Wilson, Carlton, Nottingham.

Voters go for gold (almost)

ERIC Syddique (Letters, August 21) quotes the low turnout figures for the London County Council to show that there was never a golden age of high turnout in local elections. As he notes, detailed records before 1972 are not easily available. We are compiling inter-war municipal election results, to be published shortly (County Borough Elections in England and Wales, 1918-39, Ashgate Press), and the findings so far suggest that London was unrepresentative of the country as a whole. For instance, among the first 12 boroughs we have analysed, three had average turnout over the whole period from 1919 to 1938 of more than double the Lon-

don level (Blackburn 70 per cent, Barnsley and Barrow 69 per cent). The lowest figures were for Birmingham and Brighton, both at 38 per cent, but still higher than the 34 per cent for London. For the 12 boroughs combined the average inter-war turnout was 49 per cent. Maybe not a golden age, but silver, perhaps? Sam Davies and Bob Morley, John Moores University, Liverpool.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Telling a universal story in the shadow of the Dome

PERHAPS the Dome is not the place to recall the nativity (Leader, August 21). Down the road they are building a permanent settlement — the Millennium Village — where there could be a family centre. The developers, English Partnerships, fully support this proposal. While the faiths prepare for a religious revival away from Greenwich (Holy spirits, August 21), this could be a secular acknowledgement of a universal story: that children, and their parents, need looking after. Dr Sebastian Kraemer, London.

SURELY there is a much simpler and more obvious explanation for the failure of the Roman Catholic Church to

make a contribution to help fund the Spirit Level of the Dome. The Church is at present paying out millions of pounds in damages to children who were victims of perverted priests and nuns. There is not much cash to spare at the moment for spreading the word. Madeleine Simms, London.

I'D BE very careful about the idea of inviting Him to His 2,000th birthday. He might just start tipping things over and saying some pretty rude things about money lenders and all that, and finish up getting crucified. He never was one for zones as far as I can make out. Jack Priestley, Exeter.

Diana and the end of ideology

ANDREW Marr's thesis that the cult of Diana says something about contemporary Britain (The way we are now, August 22) draws the wrong conclusions from the right premise. The Diana myth so perfectly fits our age, not because she became a "radical icon", but because her rapid, de-politicised concern for "victims" and "the suffering" was/is so apposite in the post-ideological 1990s. Her altruism, an emotional

counter-weight to the politics of Blairism, can neither be credited with challenging the Establishment nor re-defining traditional gender roles. Steven Garside, Manchester.

SO, "All next week the Guardian explores the legacy of Diana" (Saturday Review, August 22). Bye bye until the week after, then. Steve Bamber, Warwick.

The Grass Roots and me



AS A CANDIDATE for Labour's National Executive Committee, I am frequently asked: "Do you really love Tony Blair?" I — and the five other members of the Spartacist Grass Roots Left Beard Alliance — have frequently grappled with this question. The answer, if we look honestly into our hearts, is: No Tony — we don't love you, I'm afraid. The reason we are standing on a centre-left NEC slate is

because we believe that the Labour Party should more accurately reflect the views of its members. It is all about democracy, Tony. Some of us — it would be wrong to name names — have been accused of extremism in the past. This charge is deeply wounding and I would just like, if you will bear with me, to set the record straight. I admit, then, back in 1993 I did offer Tony Benn a salt and vinegar crisp at a meeting of Sicut GND's flourishing Youth Wing. ("Thanks, Luke," he said memorably). I am still very close friends with Ken Livingstone, and we have pledged to die for each other, should the need arise. (Let's hope it doesn't, Ken). I often pop round to Diane Abbott's house for a cup of cocoa. But this hardly amounts to extremism. That odious man Tom Sawyer, who I recently spotted rummaging through my bins with a demonic glint in his eye, has got it all wrong.

True, I was arrested after failing to pay my poll tax back in the 1980s. And true, I did shout "You fascist, Thatcher-worshipping son of Satan!" to the magistrate, as they dragged me struggling from the dock. But in the end, if you remember, a very, very close friend paid my fine. (Bless you, Diane, petal). I never went to jail. By this time, the Labour Party was well on its way to becoming a narrow clique of yes-men and — shameful truth — yes-women. For five years, I worked tirelessly as an Islington councillor. In the evening I would set the crossword for Labour Briefing, the left-wing paper, using the Nordic pseudonym: Rkud Gdnhar. Then glory, in all its silky luminousness, beckoned. I remember the date well: Saturday, July 1, 1993. To polite me for Clinton's war on terrorism, I was announced as the

New Labour candidate for Leeds North by North West, a crucial marginal. Little did I know, though, that the wrath of the Labour High Command was about to fall on my head, like a poorly-assembled Ikea bookshelf. The local papers dug up my campaign against the poll tax, using the headline: "Loony Trotskyist". When the Labour MP, Borel, I knew it, the NEC had launched its own pathetic witch-hunt. They refused to endorse my selection, of course. They grilled me for three hours. And they even asked whether my decision to wear red socks that morning (another present from the ever-thoughtful Diane, bless you) amounted to a "subversive gesture". I was not a "team player", they said, but an "opportunist". It is hardly surprising then, Tony, that I and five fellow Spartacist Grass Roots Left Beards have come together in the way we have. When the Labour Party allowed ord-

inary members to vote for six places on the NEC for the first time, we scented our opportunity. The truth about New Labour, I am sorry to say, is that people like Tom Sawyer don't like it up them. I was staggered when he recently described me on radio as a "frightening Trot". This from the former Nupe official who, during the tumults of local elections, personally took it upon himself to stop the dead being buried! I remember vividly him sitting on a coffin, cheerily pouring out a cup of coffee from his Thermos flask. I have to say I was very heartened last week when Roy Hattersley announced in the pages of this Very Newspaper that he might just vote for me. He later sent me a kindly letter on House of Lords headed note paper. It read: "Sawyer is a hard-faced creep. Keep the faith Luke. Best wishes, your friend, Roy." It would be wrong of me to denigrate any individual

members of the Blairite "Members First, Second and Third Group", against whom we are vigorously campaigning. But it is true that Diana Jenda never shuts up, and that Ichabod Cashman is just a washed-up luvvie hasbeen. You underestimate us at your peril, Tony. Remember what befell the lupine Peter Mandelson last year, when we — the rank and file — refused to give him a place on the NEC, ha ha. Remember Cardinal Wolsey, another great man who rose, only to fall? The decision to allow members to vote by telephone for the first time was a smart move. You thought you had us all stitched up. Little do you know, however, that our crack underground team of telephone operatives are already hard at work. Even now they are pushing the buttons which will get me elected and bring the prospect of a fairer, more caring society just that teeny weeny bit closer.

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Dr Poole... biological 'ignorance' has contributed to the inferior status of women through history

Margaret Joyce Poole

Ethics of birth

MARGARET Joyce Poole, doctor and writer on medical ethics, who has died aged 73, was a practising Catholic who challenged the church on moral theology in the light of developments in biological sciences over recent decades.

Her interests ranged from in-vitro fertilisation, embryo research, abortion and contraception to euthanasia (all forbidden by the Catholic church). Her views clashed with church teaching on the instant "ensoulment" of the embryo at the moment of conception. This stance, she felt, had a medieval ring, dating from a time when the church believed that the whole genetic inheritance of offspring was contained in the male seed. "Ignorance," she wrote, "of the human ovum and its genetic importance has contributed to the inferior status of women throughout history."

She argued that debate should centre around the concept that regarded the soul not as a separate "infused" entity at one moment but rather as the gradual development of a living organism. This argument was used by Mary War-

nock and her team in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990. If embryonic cells during the first 14 days are not yet differentiated, how can there be a "personal presence" within these cells? Joyce's interpretation of embryology might have provided acceptability within the church to permit termination of early pregnancies.

Her agenda was brave in the face of the current traditionalist backlash in Catholic hierarchical thinking, and brought her into times, vitriolic personal criticism. Within the medical profession, colleagues appreciated the scrupulous respect for reality which underlined all her reflections: while within the church, where her arguments were often far from welcome, her compassion for individuals, her characteristic insistence on giving serious consideration to the facts, and her unfailing courtesy in replying to critics, gave her writing moral authority which even those who disagreed with her could not ignore.

Joyce was born in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders and graduated in medicine in Edinburgh in 1947. Her unique quality of inquiry was recog-

nised by Sir James Learmonth, professor of surgery at Edinburgh University, who invited her to join his team. One morning after a busy night on call, Joyce was found by the professor asleep in the duty room with her head on the lap of Dr Geoffrey Poole, her husband-to-be. Instant dismissal followed. It was an age when single women were barely tolerated on surgical teams; married women were anathema.

SHE moved to paediatric research, treating children with severe burns, which kindled her interest in brain death and decisions to withdraw artificial life-support. After the birth of her four children, she worked as a general practitioner, but it was early retirement in 1976, because of ill-health, which gave her the opportunity to write on ethical dilemmas. She always drew on her practical experience and, while loyal to the church, she also proclaimed the authority "which resides in those of us who have a lifetime listening in close and frank contact to the problems of ordinary people".

no easy answers to many dilemmas resulting from scientific advancement, and she acknowledged that the Christian doctor must carry "the cross of uncertainty" when trying to balance the needs of patients against those arising from Christian norms and, in the case of the Catholic doctor, against the specific teaching of the magisterium of the church.

"But," she wrote, "when the teaching of the church on ethical matters is out of tune with current human experience, a real conflict is set up with those who count themselves committed Catholics." Her first book was characteristically called *The Cross of Uncertainty*, renamed by her American publisher as *The Harrowing We Do*.

Joyce bravely articulated the dilemma, felt by many in the church, that its image and true significance are being discredited by inappropriate pronouncements on matters based on dubious science. She is survived by her husband and children.

Dorothy Logan

Margaret Joyce Poole, doctor, born January 31, 1925; died August 8, 1998

David Clark

Roll the alternative presses

THE journalist David Clark, who has died of cancer aged 53, was never happier than when he had a paper to run. There was *Grass Eye* in the 1960s, the *Leveller* in the 1970s, and more recently the *Southwest News*.

He was a moving force behind the *Leveller*, the independent radical magazine founded in 1976, which ran until the early 1980s. "DC" had inexhaustible optimism and catching enthusiasm. He was of the 1968 generation, and was featured, en route for London from Manchester, in a Granada TV documentary on the October 1968 protest against the American war in Vietnam (and the subsequent march through London).

A Southern grammar-school boy, he went to Manchester University to read economics in 1964. But his great love was always journalism. In Manchester, he set up *Grass Eye*, a magazine that became part of the radical publishing wave of the late 1960s. With its closure in 1970, he became a researcher for Thames TV's *Tonight* news show in London. Then in 1972, he quit to freelance



Clark... always the radical pressman

for local/trade papers and for national ones like the *Observer*. But his next move was to become deputy editor at the radical magazine *Race Today*. There, in a cramped Brixton office, he worked closely — and established an enduring friendship — with the then editor Dariusz Howe. David was drawn to the politics of the Caribbean and retained a love for its music — and for the emerging black British poetry of Linton Kwesi Johnson and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Later, David was stung by the failure of the *Leveller* to make the journalistic and political impact he, and

many other people had hoped it would. In 1982, he returned to television, as a reporter at Diverse Productions, one of the first of the independent companies prompted by the birth of Channel 4.

In the mid-1980s, after briefly reporting for London's LBC radio station, he decided to go back to his grassroots, and set up a local news agency. Partly out of familiarity, partly out of love of the challenge, he chose to focus on *Southwest News*, London's most ancient suburb on the south bank of the Thames. He created the *South East London News* agency and later a local

newspaper, *Southwest News*. For the past 11 years, the paper was David's life. He sought the stories, raised the cash and took in the adverts. He signed up trainees and encouraged them when they went on to better-paid and more prestigious jobs. He sacrificed a lot for the *News*, his health included.

While rooted in the alternative culture, David never forgot his upbringing which had given him a very clear sense of morality and social justice. At times his pungent advocacy of his views irritated people, but anybody who knew him well found a loyal, genuine friend. On the *News* he defended changes in his political outlook, but he never lost his conviction that people deserved to be better informed by journalists. And he was an amusing companion who had a big heart and sense of fun.

He is survived by his parents, and by his son and former wife.

Nick Anning

David Anthony Clark, journalist, born February 16, 1945; died August 13, 1998

A Country Diary

NORTH RONALDSAY, ORKNEY: The fulmar is a gull-like seabird whose puffed white face and neck, neatly domed head-shape and dark eye give it a soft, almost benign appearance. It is one of Scotland's commonest seabirds, but in the late 19th century the only British population occurred on St. Kilda. Some unknown mechanism — possibly increases in marine otter from fishing and whaling activities — triggered a steady southward advance until the bird now breeds on cliffs in the English Channel.

In North Ronaldsay, fulmars nest on the ground, snuggled down on their single white egg in the shelter of the sheep dyke — a 20-kilometre-long wall that

completely encircles the island. In August their well-grown youngsters present an amusing spectacle. Fat and squat with a scrawny reptilian neck and covered in dirty-grey down, they look just like Gozoo on *The Muppet*. But if threatened, they lurch the head out and sway like a snake, then proceed into a retching action that ends in a jet of foul-smelling green oil.

This extraordinary defence mechanism can disable or even kill eagles and peregrines. Although I love the immatures, it's the image of their parents that I'll take away. On one gale-force south-westerly they were passing the island at around 2,500 an hour.

Fulmars have a dramatic flight action that makes economic use of the wind and the sea's troughs and swells. The birds swoop down with the wind, then loop back up with breast facing into the air-flow, before planning back into the troughs once more. Most of the energy in this forward momentum comes from the wind and from gravitational pull.

It struck me that had these birds been absent from this ocean scene, it would simply have been a violent chase of wind and waves; but with fulmars present, the Atlantic seemed tamed and acquired the order and rhythm of a neatly interlarded dance.

MARK COCKER

Birthdays

Paul Barker, writer and broadcaster, 63; A.S. Byatt, novelist, 62; Charles Causley, poet and broadcaster, 81; Lord Chadlington, advertising guru, 56; Brian Cottle, Lib Dem MP, 80; Carlo Carley, organist, 46; Prof Terry Dowling, graphic designer and illustrator, 32; Stephen Fry, actor, writer, 41; Jean-Michel Jarre, composer, 50; Georgina Livingston, landscape architect, 57; Rt Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel, 66; Madge Pirlie, director, Adam Smith Institute, 58; Christopher Rodriguez, chief executive, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, 48; Sam Torrance, golfer, 45.

Nino Ferrer

The singer who no longer loved his songs

NINO Ferrer, the French singer and composer who has committed suicide aged 53, had considerable success in the 1960s with his like *Mirza*, *Le Téléphone* and *Madame Robert*, and in the 1970s with *La Maison près de la Fontaine* and *Le Sud*. But from the mid-1980s, he was seen and heard less. When his suicide was announced, many French people from very different generations found his name familiar but could not quite readily place it.

Yet he was not an entertainer who had lost his audience. He was someone who was discontented with success. More than that, he despised what audiences applauded the most. Ferrer had new songs which he wanted the audience to hear, but they demanded that he sing the golden oldies like *Le Téléphone* or *Les Cornichons* (about grapes), and he longed to leave and slam the door behind him.

Ferrer was born Agostino Ferrari in Genoa. His father was Italian and his mother French, from a family that had lived in New Caledonia. Educated both in Genoa and in Paris, he was unsure about his nationality. As he grew up, he had no clear idea about a career until he heard jazz during the 1930s. He helped organise a band and started to play guitar. At various times, he also played bass, clarinet, saxophone and trombone.

He began writing and performing songs. Sometimes he sang in a raucous voice, sometimes he had to adapt his voice to a melody in which the words were comic and the alliteration complex and extraordinary, and often he re-

dered a ballad-like piece with great tenderness. He absorbed many influences, such as New Orleans jazz, rhythm 'n' blues, swing, Brazilian rhythms, English pop and hard rock. At the end of the 1960s, he performed successfully in Italy, he revelled in wealth and fame, and his disc



Ferrer... despised what audiences most wanted to hear

sales were excellent. But disillusion was never far away. Even when he was enjoying himself as a star and preparing new ventures, he could not believe that life was only publicly applauded, fighting with record companies and competing with supposed friends. He was disconcerted

to find his music was used to advertise Kraft cheese in Italy. He could not understand why some of his songs were successful while those that he considered to be infinitely better were ignored.

Ferrer was filled with public resentments, too. He was alarmed by the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, and he had a well-known hatred of technology. In one of his last songs, *La Danse de la Pluie*, he grouped together "the unsinkable Titanic", Zeppelins and the Maginot Line, that failed hi-tech French defence against Hitler.

In 1985, he walked away from it all, and moved to the small village of Saint-Cyprien in the Lot, devoting himself to his family, to painting, to nature. He opposed the army using his land for manoeuvres. He resented the new capitalists who had taken over traditional agriculture. But he never actually joined any political party or environmental group.

The art of the song in France appeals at all levels of cultural appreciation. There are songs which are literary. There are those which appeal to a more popular taste. But Ferrer never found his right place in this hierarchy. He could not face his 64th birthday, especially after the death of his mother earlier this year. He had long rejected the Catholic church but he sought for some moral sense, and his birthday is one of the great feasts of the Catholic church. Two days before, he lay down in a corn field and shot himself.

Douglas Johnson

Nino Ferrer, singer, born August 15, 1934; died August 13, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report headed, Celebrations well in hand beyond the Dome, Page 6, August 19, we said, "The last scheduled bombing will be the 2,785 mile millennium cycle route, which may miss the deadline by five years." In fact, the National Cycle Network, a Millennium Commission project, is ahead of schedule and will have 3,000 miles of cycle routes open by the year 2000 as planned (the original target was to have 2,500 miles open by the Millennium). And by the year 2005 the National Cycle Network will have 8,000 miles of cycle routes open.

AN ARTICLE headed, The next terror weapon will be biological... Page 14, August 16, after mentioning the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York in 1993, referred to the bombing of Nagasaki "nearly 30 years earlier". That should have been "nearly 50 years earlier".

every penny, the book is actually called *A Suitable Boy*.

IN AN item in the Screen section of the Friday Review, Page 14, August 21, we attributed the words, "klaatu barado nikto" to the robot Gort in the film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. As several readers point out, Gort is mute. The words are spoken by the alien character who has arrived on Earth, played by Michael Rennie.

ON PAGE 12, G2, August 18, we identified one of a series of "big-screen Nazis" as

James Fox. It was, in fact, his brother Edward Fox playing that particular movie character.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephone 0171 235 3550 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Send letters to the Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5997. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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From Red menace to free-market bolsheviks, page 11

Tomorrow: Winners and losers on the Moscow debt repayment roulette

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
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FinanceGuardian

Rail regulator 'to go'

Prescott seeks scalp for failings of privatisation

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE Government may sack the rail regulator, John Swift, using him as the sacrificial lamb for a high-profile industry which is continuing to underperform and whose public image is perceived to have worsened since privatisation.

Government sources last night confirmed that ministers are still considering whether to renew Mr Swift's five-year contract due to expire in November. The sources indicated that the final decision rests with the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to whom Mr Swift is answerable.

Mr Prescott, who is under growing pressure to make an example of the railways, could enjoy a short political coup by getting rid of Mr Swift. The Deputy Prime Minister needs a scalp and Mr Swift could prove to be the ideal victim.

Mr Prescott would like to plough ahead with new legislation to control the industry more effectively and to launch his strategic rail authority to provide the vision and planning it badly needs. He also wants to give passengers a better deal and an improved service — which official statistics show they are not getting.

But Mr Prescott has so far failed to secure a positive assurance from the Prime Minister that a railways bill will be introduced in the new parliamentary session, beginning in October.

If that happens, Mr Prescott may have to wait more than two years before he can seriously improve the industry's performance. He has little room for manoeuvre, since the Prime Minister has no intention of renationalising the railway industry.

Mr Swift has tried to endear himself to Mr Prescott by fining the 25 train operating companies for running an inferior telephone timetable service, but on other issues he has stepped back from

using his already considerable powers. John O'Brien, the rail franchise director, whose job will eventually disappear when the strategic rail authority is set up, has suddenly adopted a far tougher public role under instructions from Mr Prescott.

Mr O'Brien, who is supposed to ensure that the train companies provide the travelling public with the best possible deal, last week ordered Chiltern Railways to pay back £2.5 million for defaulting on its services.

Some surprise was expressed in industry circles that he had chosen to single out a small company when he should have made an example of some of the larger companies. Further action against the large railway commuting companies in London is set to follow.

Child's eye view of the storm

A SOUTH Korean boy eyes riot police on a street from a Hyundai car factory in the southern city of Ulsan as management and union leaders inch towards a settlement to a crippling three-month strike.

The industrial action has been the longest and among the costliest in the group's history, with the loss of more than 100,000 vehicles.

The dispute has centred around the axing of hundreds of posts and has highlighted how difficult it is for Korean companies to cut costs through redundancies, a step considered essential in shoring up their finances from the country's deepest recession since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Samsung Group, Korea's second-largest business group, which is reported to be planning 15,000 lay-offs, has been closely watching developments at Hyundai.

It is also a test case for President Kim Dae Jung's economic reform programme.



Markets braced for Russian fall-out

Laurie Laird

STOCK markets around the globe are braced for another bout of extreme volatility this week as the systemic financial crisis that has already battered the Far East continues to engulf Russia.

All eyes were on the opening of the Asian markets for an initial reaction to last night's surprise decision by

Russian President Boris Yeltsin to sack his entire government after just four months. Yeltsin replaced Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko with the previous incumbent, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

His appointment may not cheer investors as Chernomyrdin is a Soviet-style bureaucrat, and not considered a proponent of rapid financial reform.

It is uncertain how the new government will affect at-

tempts by the finance ministry and central bank to hammer out a repayment schedule with foreign creditors. Early last week, Russian announced a 90-day debt moratorium on as much as \$1 billion of debt.

This sent world markets into a tailspin, with the FTSE 100 slumping by 190 points on Friday — its sixth-biggest fall in percentage terms.

America's Dow Jones Industrial Average was down

320 points early on Friday, before recouping a portion of that loss to close nearly 80 points lower. In Germany, the DAX index fell 180 points, while the benchmark Xetra DAX index lost 5.4 per cent of its value.

Many economists believe the disruption to world markets caused by Russia's troubles could be dwarfed by a meltdown in Latin America.

The latest victim is Venezuela, an oil-rich country that

has been battered by this year's drop in crude oil prices. The country's finance minister admitted in a newspaper interview yesterday that the government's decision to widen the trading band of the national currency, the bolivar, amounted to a "sort of devaluation".

The move, announced on Friday, prompted fears of a wave of devaluations throughout the region.

A collapse in Latin America

is likely to have much more dramatic implications for the world economy than the Russian debacle. The region accounts for about 8 per cent of world output, compared to just 1 per cent for Russia.

Latin America also buys 15 per cent of US exports. Should that market evaporate, big manufacturers will suffer. That will knock the US stock market, and where that goes, most of the world's markets will follow.

Scottish Power in £4bn merger talks

Keith Harper

SCOTTISH Power last night confirmed that it wants to strengthen its position in the United States market after it emerged that it is in negotiations with the Cincinnati-based gas and electric company, Cinergy, about a £4 billion merger.

The British utility company refused to deny that it was negotiating with Cinergy in a move which could create a group valued at more than £10 billion.

A Scottish Power spokesman said: "We are looking at a number of American companies, and these latest reports about Cinergy are just an example of speculation surrounding our plans."

A merger between the two firms would turn Scotland's largest electric and gas utility into one of the first rank of power companies. It would combine Cinergy's power and gas businesses in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

But the move could come

up against regulatory opposition in Britain. Cinergy holds a 50 per cent stake in Midlands Electricity, the central England generator, and Scottish Power owns Manweb, the North-west's regional electric company.

Industry sources suggested yesterday that the regulator could be against the common ownership of two regional energy suppliers.

Glasgow-based Scottish Power shelved a £3 billion bid for Florida Progress Corp, a US electric company, earlier this year because the price being asked was too high. But it is still determined to find an American partner.

Cinergy has already held talks with PowerGen, one of Britain's largest generating companies — which, like Scottish Power, wants to find an American partner.

But the talks collapsed partly because of strains between Cinergy's chief executive, Jim Rogers, and PowerGen's chairman, Ed Wallis, they are both strong characters and did not get on well.

Reed Elsevier in £33m books sell-off

Financial Staff

REED ELSEVIER yesterday completed its withdrawal from consumer publishing by selling the group's illustrated books division to its management for £33 million.

The six businesses manage 2,000 titles and 500 authors, including Sir Terence Conran's *The Essential Garden Book*, Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Guide*, Mitchell Beazley's *The Joy of Sex* and the Marka & Spencer cookery publications.

The managers have formed a new company, Octopus Publishing Group, to continue the operations which last year had sales of £45 million.

The division, which has 240 staff, has its roots in the early 1970s when publishing mogul Paul Hamlyn launched the Octopus book company.

Derek Freeman, who has worked with Octopus since its formation, said: "It has been hard for staff over the last three years of uncertainty, but this deal will be really good for them."

Royal Ordnance jobs threatened

David Gow
Industrial Editor

BRITISH Aerospace may be forced to close its Royal Ordnance plant at Bishopston, near Glasgow, threatening 330 jobs after losing a crucial Ministry of Defence contract to a South African rival, industry sources said yesterday.

The £100 million deal to supply propellant for the Army's new front-line big gun, the AS90 Howitzer, is expected to be awarded to the Denelcor corporation at the end of October.

Closure of the Bishopston plant would be the second blow to RO's workforce within weeks. Earlier this month, BAE said it would cut 475 jobs at seven plants owned by the arms manufacturer, including 199 at its Nottingham factory alone.

The MoD had been thought likely to announce the winner of the contract this week or next, but is now under pres-

Dixons's rising star hired to revamp Argos

Laurie Laird

TERRY DUDDY, a rising star in the Dixons retail empire, is set to take the helm of the struggling catalogue retailer Argos.

It has been without a chief executive since being taken over by Great Universal Stores three months ago, after a very bitter takeover battle.

Mr Duddy, 42, currently the managing director of Dixons's PC World chain, has his work cut out, with sales falling at a rate of 10 per cent a month. Even the recently departed chief executive Michael Rose, who led the Argos defence against GUS, once said the catalogue retailer "treats its customers like faecal matter."

First among Mr Duddy's tasks will be to oversee Argos's trials of its home delivery service, launched last month in the North-west. He will also seek to address the company's sales cycles, analysts say Argos depends far too heavily on Christmas sales.

City experts also believe GUS wants to brighten up Argos's somewhat dowdy image.

Allied Carpets tread with care

This week
Tony May

ALLIED Carpets' results will be overshadowed by the simultaneous release of the results of the inquiry by its auditors, Arthur Andersen, into accounting irregularities.

Last week's announcement of the resignations of finance director David Pout and retail operations manager Steve Barber increased expectations that the inquiry's findings will be fairly damning.

The departures came five weeks after Allied Carpets disclosed that some of its outlets had deviated from its stated accounting policy by recording sales before products were delivered to customers. At the time, Allied Carpets requested a suspension of its shares at 74½p.

Three weeks ago Ray Nettleton, Allied Carpets' managing director, admitted that more than half of Allied's 258

stores had booked sales earlier than allowed for under its stated accounting policy. He said the group would take a £3 million exceptional charge.

Despite the focus on the inquiry findings, analysts point out that of far more importance will be news of current trade and Allied's strategy to mitigate the deteriorating consumer climate.

In its profit warning of May 15, Allied said full-year results to June 30 were expected to be considerably below last year's £16.7 million and complained of "a distinct lack of consumer confidence".

TODAY — Interim BGR, Freepage Group (33), Gower, Hambro Countrywide, Jumble International, Levenston Group, NSP Fund.

WEDNESDAY — Interim Amstar, Cairn Energy, Gilbey & Dandy, Irish Permanent, Kiron Group, Rasmussen, Vynnyk.

THURSDAY — Interim Amstar, Cairn Energy, Gilbey & Dandy, Irish Permanent, Kiron Group, Rasmussen, Vynnyk, Wainwright.

FRIDAY — Interim Amstar, Cairn Energy, Gilbey & Dandy, Irish Permanent, Kiron Group, Rasmussen, Vynnyk, Wainwright.

SATURDAY — Interim Amstar, Cairn Energy, Gilbey & Dandy, Irish Permanent, Kiron Group, Rasmussen, Vynnyk, Wainwright.

SUNDAY — Interim Amstar, Cairn Energy, Gilbey & Dandy, Irish Permanent, Kiron Group, Rasmussen, Vynnyk, Wainwright.

Russia's great leap to chaos



Larry Elliott

Laissez-faire Leninists usher in a new menace

The collapse of the Soviet Union was a sweet moment for the West. All those years of the Cold War, of being worried about the Red Army goose-stepping into West Germany were suddenly and spectacularly over. Like all victors in wars, the West had the chance to be generous or vindictive. And like nearly all victors, it chose wrong.

At the end of *A People's Tragedy*, his monumental study of the Russian Revolution, historian Orlando Figes warned that "it is by no means a foregone conclusion that the emerging civil societies of the former Soviet bloc will seek to emulate the democratic model. This is no time for the sort of liberal-democratic triumphalism with which the collapse of the Soviet Union was met in many quarters in the West."

Sadly, that is precisely what has happened: an attempt to transform a command economy into a pure market economy overnight.

But this, remember, was the end of the 1980s. Mrs Thatcher was in her pomp, the economies of the West were enjoying a boom, the doctrines of Milton Friedman were being followed everywhere.

As such, the Lenins of laissez-faire believed that they could short-circuit the historical process. They were wrong. Free-market Bolshevism has taken Russia to the edge of the abyss.

Since 1990, the Russian economy has shrunk by more than 40 per cent as most of the country's woefully inefficient industry has been wiped out by foreign competition. Output of lorries, for example, is down by more than 80 per

cent, that of fridges and freezers by more than 70 per cent. But the Great Leap Forward to a market economy has put the state finances under chronic pressure.

The failure to pay wages has become so acute that the teachers have gone on strike and the country has slipped back into a barter economy, making it difficult to collect taxes — even for the baseball-bat wielding, balacava-hat-wearing heavies sent in by the government to persuade those in arrears to cough up.

For those visitors taking snaps of St Basil's Cathedral, this gloomy picture may seem at odds with the outward signs of Western prosperity. But as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development admits: "The vitality displayed in Moscow City has certainly not been a casual traveller's impressions."

That Russia as a whole must have done likewise. So far, however, the areas enjoying a sustained upswing are best described as growth islands.

At one and the same time as the country is suffering from levels of economic deprivation that would be deemed intolerable in the West, an attempt is being made to implant democracy.

The two — a breakneck economic transition and democracy — are incompatible, even though this seems to have escaped those in the West who are now accusing Moscow of bringing the crisis on itself. In the same way, presumably, as a laboratory

rat brings cancer upon itself by inhaling cigarette smoke.

Critics of the West's approach to Russia, including George Soros, argue that the process has been far too fast, that it was obvious from the start that there needed to be something akin to a Marshall Plan for Russia to embed the reform process, that capital mobility and free trade were likely to be self-defeating for an economy as weak and vulnerable as Russia's.

"The prevailing trend is still downward, toward disintegration and decay," Mr Soros said in his autobiography. "It was well within the powers of the western democracies to slow down the disintegration of the Soviet Union and lay the foundations of an

It was obvious from the start that there needed to be something akin to a Marshall Plan for Russia to embed the reform process

open society before the closed society collapsed. All it would have taken was some positive reinforcement for Gorbachev's policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika*."

Soros argues, rightly, that western assistance to Russia has gone through three phases. In the first phase, we should have offered assistance, but we didn't. In the second phase, we promised it, but we didn't deliver it. In the third phase, we delivered it, but it didn't work.

And so, for all the claims from the disciples of pure laissez-faire that the shock treatment was paying off, the Russian government was faced

earlier this month with a situation in which GDP had resumed its decline, with lower oil prices and the global slowdown emanating from Asia leading to a contraction in both May and June. Weak growth plus high debt servicing costs threatened the authorities with a potentially calamitous explosion in external debt, while the austere monetary and fiscal measures required to underpin the route simply added to rumbling social unrest, thereby making long-term economic reforms even more difficult.

Faced with the choice between the domestic economy and defending the currency, the Yeltsin government chose the former, as did John Major on Black Wednesday. This was sensible, even though there are those who say that the hard-earned gains in the battle to bring down inflation have been tossed to the wind by the disinflationary forces at play, both in the Russian and the global economy, this looks as dubious a proposition as it was in Britain in September 1992. The speculators say that Russia is heading up a blind alley and may be cutting itself off from foreign investment.

But what investment? According to the OECD, investment in Russia is running at 25 per cent of its 1990 level and the average age of plant and machinery is more than 14 years, compared to 9.5 years in 1980. Indeed, Moscow would be well advised to treat the advice of foreign investors with caution. Altruism is not readily associated with speculators and they seem a bit baffled that the Russian authorities have been worried of being taken for a ride.

As one analyst put it last week: "The measures announced last Monday have effectively robbed the speculators of the air they need to breathe. The Russian government has clearly distinguished the needs of the real economy from that of the paper economy. It has exercised its right as a sovereign

power to make the rules of the game."

If this is so, it may prove to be a decisive moment. The Russians seem to have stumbled upon a basic premise of the Bretton Woods system — namely that if you have a pegged exchange rate and total capital mobility, you have effectively ceded control of your economy to the speculators abroad and the mafia bosses at home.

One way out of the crisis would be a currency board, under which a country effectively stops having its own autonomous monetary policy and instead adopts that of another nation. To the extent that it would make economic policy more transparent, a currency board would help to rebuild the power and integrity of the state.

But Russia's real need is not a stable currency, but a stable economy. Given its vulnerability to commodity prices, it would be better off with a fixed but adjustable exchange rate coupled with controls on capital, perhaps along the lines of those in Chile, where long-term direct investment is welcomed, but short-term flows are penalised. This runs the risk of making the current epidemic of corruption even worse, but this is not a situation in which there are cost-free options.

There will be those who say that there is nothing wrong with Russia that more free trade, greater capital mobility and even more financial orthodoxy could not put right. Russia, so the orthodox goes, has to seize the moment, even if the objective conditions for a market revolution are not absolutely in place.

In the meantime, during the transition period there will be a dictatorship of the bond dealers. This approach has been tried once in Russia, with well-documented results. It is in the West's own interests to cut Russia some slack, to recognise that Moscow needs time to muddle through for a bit. For as traders in dealing rooms on Friday afternoon could testify, the Russian economy still threatens the West, even if the Red Army does not.



Was Clarke a monetary revolutionary?

Debate

Robert Barrie

IF it takes between one and two years for monetary policy to have its full impact on the economy, the numbers we are seeing now reflect interest rates in the last year of the last government. It is effectively the last time interest rates were set by the Chancellor rather than by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee.

It is widely argued now that selected specialists are likely to make a better job of monetary policy than elected politicians, and one of the first things the present Chancellor did after raising rates himself

for the first and last time was to hand rates over to the experts. The MPC duly raised them by a further 1 percentage point over the next six months.

The presumption seems to have been that Clarke left policy too loose before the election. At the time there were concerns about a new consumer boom — inflation forecasts were being revised upwards and it was all starting to look familiar.

But there were also signs that it might be different. Clarke raised rates six months before the election and followed that with a budget which tightened fiscal policy in the following three years. It is true that he resisted the Bank of England's advice to raise rates again before the election, but

that difference was over how to take the strength of sterling into account.

But we can now start to assess the policy of the MPC by looking at the relevant outcomes — the latest growth and inflation numbers. On that basis, it does not look too bad. The consumer boom turned out to be half-hearted: cash spending growth has hardly picked up since July.

More generally, the numbers suggest non-oil growth has slowed to sub-trend again, and did not average more than 3 per cent last year.

Meanwhile, initial estimates suggest growth numbers could be revised down by up to 0.5 percentage points a year in each of the last three years when the national accounts are reformulated next month. The economy has

been working somewhat less hard than we thought.

Rather than rising, inflation has fallen. The gross domestic product is running at down to 1.5 per cent from 2.5 per cent a year ago.

More important, apart from the three months in which it was affected by the higher excise duties in the overlapping budgets of July and August, inflation has been at the 2.5 per cent target or within 0.1 percentage points of it throughout this year. RPI-X inflation, which excludes mortgages, has been just over 2 per cent over the past year, against 2.5 per cent.

That is not to say the MPC was not right to raise rates, nor that there is nothing for it

to be concerned about now. Growth has slowed, but domestic demand still needs to do so. Inflation has fallen, but the MPC has been worried about a forecast in the inflation report of a year ago. Pay and unit-labour costs have risen, and changing growth calculation could make that worse.

But some of the risks the MPC has been worried about — which have influenced monetary policy — have not materialised. If pre-election policy was not as loose as it seemed, the chances of it being tighter than it need be now are higher. Encouragingly, the latest inflation report, talks less about the domestic economy's strength and more about the weakness of the global economy.

Beyond that, the message may be that it was the intro-

duction of an inflation target as much as the MPC itself which marked the decisive break with our dismal monetary past.

Having said that, the single most important influence on the economy in recent years has been the strength of sterling — out of the hands and to some extent against the wishes of politicians and experts alike. Clarke's contribution was to see more clearly than most, perhaps, how significant that could eventually turn out to be.

Robert Barrie is UK economist for Credit Suisse First Boston

Tourist rates - bank sells

Australia 2.70	Germany 2.8488	Malaysia 8.82	Singapore 2.81
Austria 18.98	Greece 479.39	Mexico 16.82	South Africa 10.13
Belgium 68.74	Hong Kong 12.28	Netherlands 3.20	Spain 240.58
Canada 2.42	India 70.53	New Zealand 3.19	Sweden 12.97
Cyprus 0.835	Ireland 1.1279	Norway 12.28	Switzerland 2.38
Denmark 10.90	Israel 5.99	Portugal 200.23	Turkey 432.420
Finland 6.74	Italy 2.823	Saudi Arabia 6.01	USA 1.5880
France 6.52			

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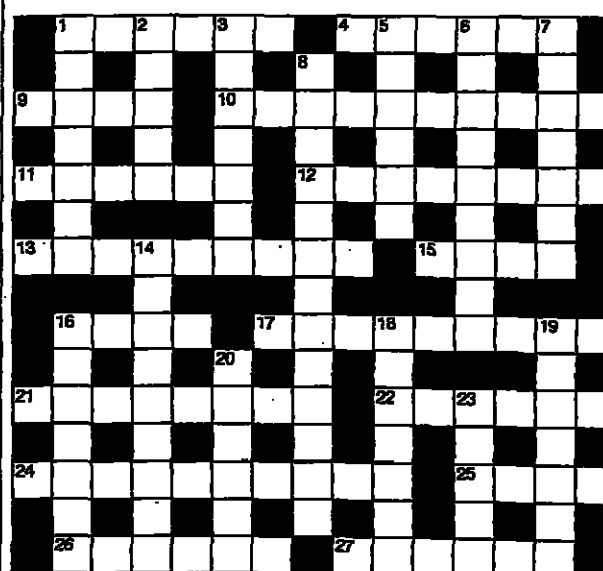
Indicators

TOMORROW — US: Existing home sales (July).
WEDNESDAY — UK: Whole world trade in goods (June).
UK: Non-EU Trade in goods (July).
UK: Harmonised Index of consumer prices (July).

THURSDAY — UK: CBI monthly trends enquiry (August).
US: GDP (Preliminary, Q2).
FRIDAY — JP: Unemployment rate (July).
US: Harmonised CPI (July).
FR: Unemployment rate (July).
 Source: HSBC Economics & Investment Services.

Guardian Crossword No 21,361

Set by Rufus

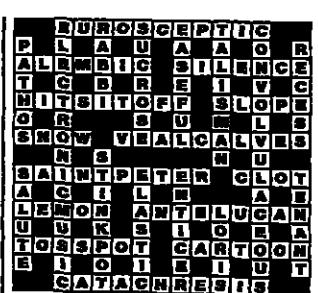


Across

- Difficult in two ways (6)
- Reliable persons shouldn't be dropped (6)
- An air of faith? (4)
- Pictures on the wall, perhaps, of striptease (10)
- Girl graduate with whom I study (6)
- Brides eventually have tales to tell (3,5)
- Traces idea that is wrong and root it out (9)
- They may be put on but don't go off (4)
- Failed to make contact, say, in poor visibility (4)
- Protection money? (9)
- Dutch barista's liqueur (8)
- Athletes may take it in their stride (6)

Down

- The month's weather forecast for the London area (7)
- Having eaten a meal I'd end a different shape (5)
- Cast in a devilish mould? (7)
- Soldier with interest in wanting to live (6)
- Distribute circular about university courses (9)
- Stickers for the traditional method of roasting (7)
- Points out ripe possibilities of advancement (13)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,354
 This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are A & C Stewart of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire; Mrs M Rogers of Swaffham, Norfolk; Brian Jones of Staines, Middlesex; Mr M J Cochrane of Barnstable, Devon; and Brian Ashworth of Manchester.
 Please allow 28 days for delivery

Partnoy's complaint opens Pandora's box

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

BOOK-JACKET endorsements of the "this monetarist on the previous best-seller on same topic" read like a vicarage tea party. variety are usually a sure sign that here is one production upon which discerning readers ought not to bestow their disposable income.

Usually. But not always. Last year, a former Wall Streeter, Frank Partnoy, published a little number his publisher declared lifted the lid on the entire

business of financial derivatives. But let's face it, this is hardly virgin territory, especially since the main man, Nick Leeson, has already penned his memoirs.

Nevertheless, Partnoy's complaint was, in essence, new and interesting. Clarke raised rates six months before the election and followed that with a budget which tightened fiscal policy in the following three years. It is true that he resisted the Bank of England's advice to raise rates again before the election, but

that difference was over how to take the strength of sterling into account. But we can now start to assess the policy of the MPC by looking at the relevant outcomes — the latest growth and inflation numbers. On that basis, it does not look too bad. The consumer boom turned out to be half-hearted: cash spending growth has hardly picked up since July.

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been working somewhat less hard than we thought. Rather than rising, inflation has fallen. The gross domestic product is running at down to 1.5 per cent from 2.5 per cent a year ago.

More important, apart from the three months in which it was affected by the higher excise duties in the overlapping budgets of July and August, inflation has been at the 2.5 per cent target or within 0.1 percentage points of it throughout this year. RPI-X inflation, which excludes mortgages, has been just over 2 per cent over the past year, against 2.5 per cent.

That is not to say the MPC was not right to raise rates, nor that there is nothing for it

to be concerned about now. Growth has slowed, but domestic demand still needs to do so. Inflation has fallen, but the MPC has been worried about a forecast in the inflation report of a year ago. Pay and unit-labour costs have risen, and changing growth calculation could make that worse.

But some of the risks the MPC has been worried about — which have influenced monetary policy — have not materialised. If pre-election policy was not as loose as it seemed, the chances of it being tighter than it need be now are higher. Encouragingly, the latest inflation report, talks less about the domestic economy's strength and more about the weakness of the global economy.

Beyond that, the message may be that it was the intro-

duction of an inflation target as much as the MPC itself which marked the decisive break with our dismal monetary past.

Having said that, the single most important influence on the economy in recent years has been the strength of sterling — out of the hands and to some extent against the wishes of politicians and experts alike. Clarke's contribution was to see more clearly than most, perhaps, how significant that could eventually turn out to be.

Robert Barrie is UK economist for Credit Suisse First Boston

Economics made easy

Charlotte Denny

What is the National Insurance Fund?
 It is the government account administered by the Department of Social Security. It takes in NI contributions and pays out benefits. But it is not a proper fund — contributions are invested and payments come from interest streams, rather than from the capital. Basically it is an accounting device for channelling NI receipts into benefit payments.

What are contributory benefits?
 Payments like the state pension, which require recipients to have

a record of NI contributions in order to qualify. When the welfare state was set up half a century ago most benefits were based on establishing contributory records.

Welfare state founder William Beveridge envisaged a nationalised form of insurance against risks like unemployment or illness — hence the name — with contributions replacing premiums. The insurance principle has been undermined by means-testing, so now a minority of benefits are based on contributory records — the state pension being the most important.

What happens to people's contributions?
 They go towards paying benefits for current pensioners and those claiming unemployment or sickness benefits. NI contributions are really just a form of tax.

Why do people talk about the fund being in surplus?
 In the early days, the NI Fund required regular top-ups from other tax revenues to meet the demand for benefit payments. The Thatcher government abolished those during the 1980s. It was able to do so because it had cut back on

contributory benefits and linked pension rises to inflation rather than wage increases. This made the fund cheaper to run. Prices rise more slowly than wages, so the value of the pension was eroded. Rising unemployment in the early 1990s forced a reinstatement of the Treasury top-up. In some years — as last year — the fund does not need the extra tax revenue.

That is when people talk about it running a surplus. But it is a misleading expression — it suggests the fund is making a profit. But all that is happening is that the fund is taking less money from current taxpayers.

مكتبة الجليل

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The Guardian Sport

Monday August 24 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

Smoke clears after battle of Yorke's drift

Premiership: Aston Villa 3 Middlesbrough 1

Villa's fire reduces the alarm bells to silence

David Lacey sees John Gregory's side buy valuable time after the big sell-off

FOUR fire engines turned up at Villa Park yesterday, presumably on the assumption that the £12.5 million Manchester United paid for Dwight Yorke would be burning a hole in Aston Villa's pocket. In the event Villa beat Middlesbrough with sufficient ease to avoid a panic-stricken rush into the transfer market, for at least a week anyway.

At the end 20,000 Yorke fans were distributed among the fans. Well, it has seemed a good idea at the time, and Villa supporters might not have been too keen on scoffing free Crunchies on behalf of Stan Collymore.

The departure of Yorke, and Collymore's ankle injury, emaciated Villa's attacking options to a point where Ricardo Semmola, a central defender with reserve experience as a striker, played up front alongside little Julian Joachim. Makeshift though this was, it saw Joachim give Villa an early lead and almost complete command for an hour.

So who needs Yorke, and why squander his fee on over-priced and probably less accomplished replacements? On this prima facie evidence it is a beguiling argument.

Then again Villa are unlikely to encounter many opponents who bring on proper strikers only when they are two goals down. Middlesbrough's supine approach saw Paul Merson cast in a lone attacking role while a five-man midfield attempted to stifle Villa's movements.

But far from doing so, the space that Andy Townsend, Robbie Mustoe and the one-paced Paul Gascoigne allowed their opponents enabled Lee Hendrie, Ian Taylor and Alan Thompson to dominate. Add the freedom Gary Charles was given on the right wing and it was a wonder the afternoon ever became a contest.

That it did was due to a belated recognition by Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, of the importance of goals. Once he replaced Gascoigne and Alan Moore with Mikkel Beck and Hamilton Ricard, Villa were forced to defend in areas where previously they had merely been out for an afternoon stroll.

A goal from Beck and suddenly

Match stats		
	Villa	Middlesbrough
Possession	52%	48%
Attempts on target	5	8
Attempts off target	4	4
Corners	5	3
Fouls	10	13
Offsides	5	3
Bookings	1	1
Sendings-off	0	0

denly Villa were faced with something more than a rotten Boro. Thompson's late free-kick ended Middlesbrough's recovery but Robson's team had done enough to suggest a more positive approach away from Tyneside might bring greater rewards.

True, Middlesbrough were without Gary Pallister, Marco Branca and the newly signed Colin Cooper, but surrendering the initiative to a Villa side similarly weakened by injuries and departure was merely inviting defeat. If Boro are going to wear Argentina's strip on their travels they might as well try to acquire some Argentinian beef. Gascoigne was part of the problem, not for anything he did — his passing and willingness to tackle back were admirable — but for the things he obviously was incapable of doing. Most of these involved a lack of pace and the need to preserve a diminished stamina.

All the while Gascoigne operated in a holding position in his own half he could not get

forward to link up with Merson. On the few occasions that he did, something always happened to disturb the reverie of Villa's defenders, such as the flicky angled pass which Merson drove wide at the end of the first half.

Robson may continue to regard Gascoigne as a valuable tallisman, worth playing for those moments of skill he can still provide. But more questions will be posed about Gascoigne's reluctance to operate at much above the tempo of a testimonial match.

The manner in which Villa scored their first two goals, hitting swiftly and incisively on the break, rather made a nonsense of Middlesbrough's defensive outlook. Villa took the lead in the sixth minute after smart work in their own half by Gareth Barry to release Alan Wright on the left. Hendrie met Wright's cross with a sharp turn and lay-off, and Joachim's well-struck shot beat Mark Schwarzer.

After 52 minutes Villa began a move virtually from their own byline which eventually found Taylor's head glancing the ball out to Charles, who swung in past Dean Gordon before curling a left-footed shot into the far corner.

Villa should have all but put the match beyond Middlesbrough's reach before then. In the 38th minute Gianluca Festa wrestled Joachim to the ground to concede a penalty and Thompson prepared to score his first goal for Villa since arriving from Bolton for £4.5 million.

Thompson has one of the best left-foot shots in the English game but this time he went for accuracy rather than power and Schwarzer made an excellent diving save. Beck's goal, a sharp header from Merson's short cross within two minutes of coming on, sent a ripple of anxiety across Villa Park but with just under 15 minutes remaining Thompson's free-kick, struck with full force this time, took a deflection off Ricard, and that was that.



Luck bounces Villa's way... Julian Joachim evades a challenge from Middlesbrough's Gianluca Festa yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: STUART FRANKLIN

His boots were made for walking

Vivek Chaudhary finds the home faithful angry at destination rather than departure

BEFORE yesterday Aston Villa fans had their own tribute song to the man who once wore the claret-and-blue No. 10 shirt.

To the tune of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" they would chant: "Start spreading the news, He's playing today, I wanna see him score again, Dwight Yorke, Dwight Yorke."

Perhaps it was a prophetic choice of song, given Sinatra's original opening line: "Start spreading the news, I'm leaving today".

Prior to the match the Villa Park Tannoy system broadcast an interview with

the manager John Gregory, who said he had sold Yorke because the player's heart was not in the club. It was a view shared by many outside Villa Park yesterday, who appeared more resentful of the fact that he had gone to Manchester United than the fact that he had actually left.

"The bad gone to any other club, apart from Birmingham that is, then it wouldn't have been so bad," said Nathan Sawyers, aged 16. "Everybody hates Manchester United. Yorke had been with us for nine years and he should have stuck with us. We're capable of winning things as well."

People here would have killed for Dwight Yorke, we loved him a lot." Though never a prolific goalscorer, Yorke had embedded himself in the hearts of the Villa faithful, not surprising given that they have had to put up with the spitting Savo Milosevic, an uncertain David Unsworth and the tempestuous Stan Collymore who has promised much but has so far delivered little.

In Yorke's pearl-white dazzling smile they had a player they could rely on. He played and entertained with refreshing joy and energy, and given a choice between the delightful Dwight and the stumpy Stan it is not difficult to see why the fans thought of Yorke as one of their own.

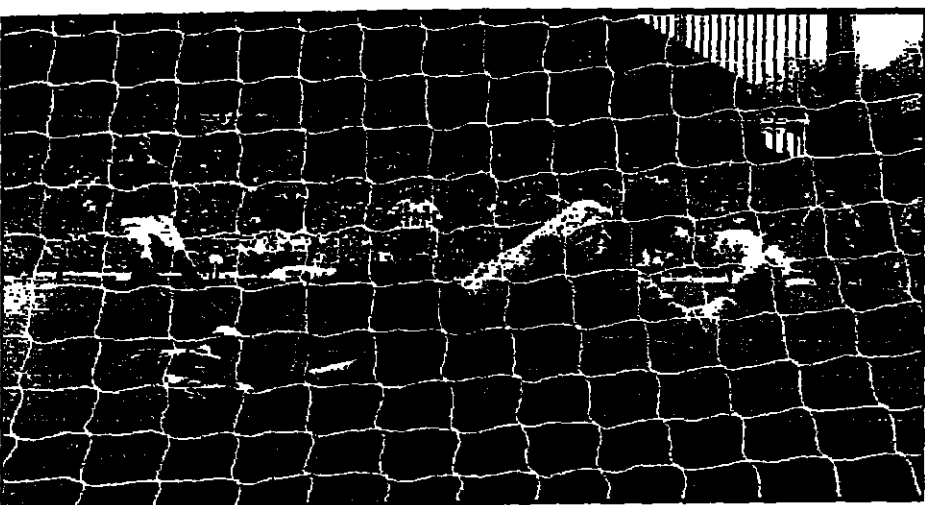
"He did give his all to the club whenever he played," said Peter Edwards. "We thought of him as a Bruznie, as one of our own. He was very good with the fans and the club did make a big effort to try and hold on to him. I don't think selling him reflects a lack of ambition on Villa's part, because if a player really wants to go then you can't stop him, it's impossible."

A poll in a local newspaper prior to Yorke's departure found that 80 per cent of Aston Villa fans agreed with selling him. For a forward who scored 13 Premiership goals last season, a transfer fee of £12.5 million made good economic sense and even the most loyal fan could see this.

As the teams ran out for yesterday's game, most of the fans vented their anger on Manchester United rather than the club chairman. "Stand up if you hate Man U," they chanted.

As is the way with recently departed footballers, Yorke and his new team will receive a hostile reception when they visit Villa Park in December, whatever the forward once meant to the club and the fans.

One thing you will not hear at the match from three sides of the ground at least is the second verse to the song the Villa fans once sang for Yorke, which went: "If he can score from here, He'll score from anywhere. It's up to you, Dwight Yorke, Dwight Yorke."



Brief Boro reprieve... Mark Schwarzer saves Alan Thompson's penalty

PAUL VIERA

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SILK CUT ULTRA IS LOW IS SILK CUT ULTRA

SMOKING WHEN PREGNANT HARMS YOUR BABY

Chief Medical Officers' Warning

1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine

Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit

No. 42 Glenn Hoddle

Gazza Trashed My Room may be his best effort yet, but it's hardly the first time Glenn has made headlines. Who could forget that Eighties Tottenham classic, Steve Archibald stole my shorts?

The Team Shirt Revenue-Raising XI

Those big-name signings in full

David Beckham	Replaces all too cut Grassie at three
Roberto Carlos	Debut of many letters
Paulo Ince	Brought joy to Spurs' marketing arm
Marcelo Desailly	Everton no longer short at the back
Fabrizio Ravanelli	Worth almost double Yorkie in lefties
Giovanni van Bronckhorst	Rangers' long-winded pretty boy
Jean Claude Denerville	Almost makes up for Van Hoogdonk
Pierluigi Casiraghi	Keeping out minimalist Zola and Flo
Enzo Scifo	Welcome syllable boost at Charlton
Stephane Gheysens	Apostrophe cheap at half the price
Jesper Blomqvist	Cole and Giggs too brief by half

A life in pictures

Gordon Strachan



1984-89 Player with Manchester United. Upright, aggressive, tense.
 1990-92 Player with Scotland. Aggressive, tense, upright.
 1993-95 Player with Leeds, Leeds, Leeds. Upright, aggressive, tense.
 1997- Manager of Coventry, relaxed, joyful, laidback.

Ask the experts

WHY was there no need for penalty shoot-outs before the semi-finals in the World Cup? There were quite a few replays in the early days when time permitted, but there were also a lot of hammerings and more goals. Since 1970 the gap between top sides, both club and country, has progressively narrowed. Also, the very existence of the penalty shoot-out encourages negative play towards the end of the match by a weaker side. As much as England were lauded for their defensive performance against Argentina this summer, the truth is that even at the end of the match, the British team were hanging on for penalties. Martin Bell, London £17

State of the nation

Poland

Population 38 million. Registered clubs 6,000. Unusually champions Pogon Lwow won four league titles in the 1920s, but will not win any more — Lwow is now in Ukraine. Pioneer Poland's second most-captain player Kazimierz Deyna (below), who was killed in a car crash in 1989, was signed by Manchester City for £100,000 worth of photocopies, medical equipment and hard currency in 1978. He played only 38 games before leaving for San Diego Sockers, remarking: "I don't need Malcolm Allison to tell me I am a great player." Stranger in a strange land Deyna was Poland's only Polish connection. This week United play Leeds (pronounced "Woods") in the Champions League quarter-final. City went down on away goals to Leeds's city rivals White in the UEFA Cup in 1977, as did United in 1980. Manchester City (2) City were the opponents on the only occasion a Polish side has reached a European final, beating Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in the 1970 Cup Winners' Cup final.

Off the park life



Another off-duty footballer who can't keep away from sport. This was that nice Gary Lineker's first appearance at Lord's for MCC in 1992. Who was it against, and how many did he score? Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below to win your chance of this month's new shirt from the Football Book Club £171-561 1606 for a catalogue. Last week's answer: Clive Allen, at Stamford Bridge. Winner Martin Gough of Liverpool.

Clogger welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at clogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-713 4107

Football

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 0 Sheffield Wednesday 3

Domestic product failure sees Gross ripe for export

Russell Thomas sees Wednesday win and fans call for heads at still pointless Spurs

THE timeless equation of home defeat plus adverse crowd reaction equalling the sack threatens to cast Christian Gross out of Tottenham. If he defies this formula — and the bookmakers' ominous 4-7 latest odds that he will become the season's first Premiership managerial casualty — then this Swiss will be made of even sterner stuff than his sonorous image projects. For all his faults as selector and tactician, the embattled, black-clad head coach at least retained his dignity and composure amidst the raucous atmosphere enveloping Tottenham's ground after he gave a second press conference, his voice competing with the chants of about 350 demonstrators ringing out across the car-park.

"Sack the board" and "We want Sugar out" were among the politer chants amid mainly personal abuse of the chairman Alan Sugar as fans pressed against the famous gates for more than an hour after this dismal, demoralising defeat by a markedly superior Sheffield Wednesday. Sugar finally emerged, flanked by security guards, about two hours after the final whistle to deliver a curt response to questions about the ugly scenes. It was that sort of afternoon. He then left with the club's director of football David Platt and Rune Hauga, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's agent, to discuss the Manchester United forward's projected \$5.5 million move. But the deal is in jeopardy, for several personal reasons quite apart from the

player's questionable desire to tear up a lucrative long-term contract. So it may need Sugar's most persuasive and determined negotiating when Tottenham talk to the player, a meeting which may be delayed until late this week because of United's trip to Poland. But given so many glaring weaknesses in Tottenham's team, even the signing of Solskjaer is unlikely to appease the angry supporters. Gross played down the significance of Sugar's visit to the dressing-room at half-time, when this game was already up for Spurs. It was not the first time the chairman had slipped into that so-called sanctuary and, said Gross, "he didn't talk to the players". "For sure," agreed Gross about the need for the uplift a big signing would bring. But the head coach was looking well beyond Solskjaer for solutions. He then intoned the familiar mantra of needing to



Gross... keeping his dignity

to Ramon Vega, who was spared further baiting in the second half by a foot-ligumen injury which, said Gross, "could be a bad one". The Italian left-back Paolo Tramezzani injured his knee and a finger. The defence was hardly helped by Ian Walker's error for the first goal as he appeared to throw the wrong arm at Peter Atherton's looping header. The third, direct from Andy Hinchcliffe's 25-yard free-kick, also raised questions about the goalkeeper as well as the wall. In between, Benito Carbone's ingenious chip and Paolo Di Canio's eventual finish effectively signalled the end of the contest. Only 35 minutes had elapsed.

West Ham United 0 Manchester United 0

Puzzling house of Yorke

David Lacey



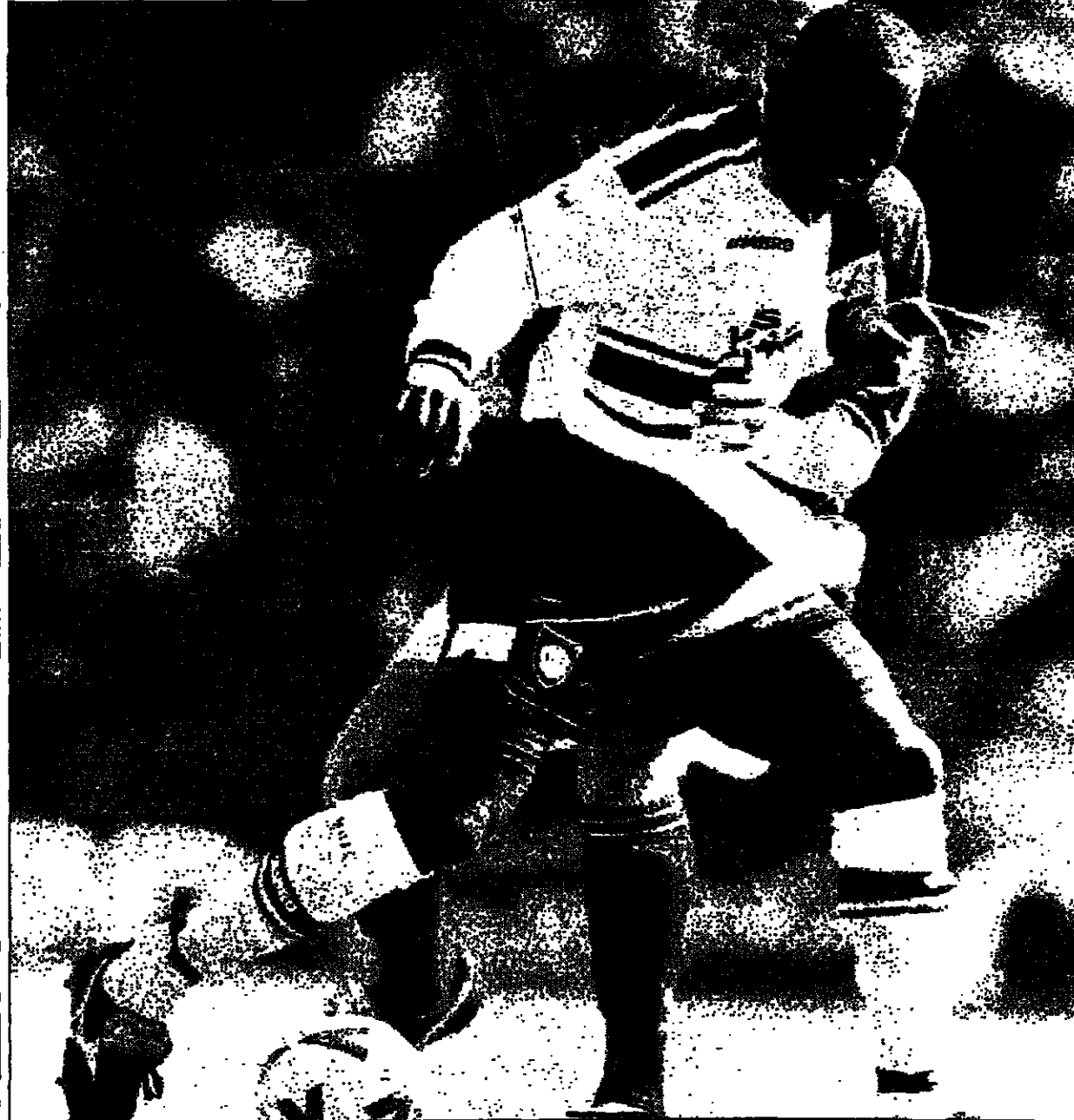
BAD football matches just happen. Sometimes, however rich the ingredients, the occasion simply falls flat. It is not pre-planned or pre-arranged that was. Nevertheless, this tedious, scoreless spectacle at Upton Park, where West Ham and Manchester United produced one of the poorest encounters between these sides in living memory, did offer a pertinent comment on the biggest issue now facing the game. It was not the angst of David Beckham as he stepped out on to an opposing ground for the first time since his red card in the World Cup reduced England to 10 men against Argentina and helped hasten their departure from the tournament. Upton Park

Match stats

	WHU	MUN
Possession	48%	52%
Attempts on target	3	3
Attempts off target	3	6
Corners	3	1
Fouls	15	17
Offsides	3	4
Bookings	3	1
Sendings-off	0	0

boomed him ritualistically for a while but gave it up as universal boredom set in.

No, the underlying message of this match concerned the likely fate of the Premiership should Manchester United, along with Arsenal and Liverpool, decide to throw in their lot with a breakaway European League which would reduce the national competition to regional showdowns. This week Uefa is due to hold meetings aimed at producing a compromise which will, it is hoped, avert a confederacy. The rebels will probably be offered a bigger Champions League which will meet most of their demands, although the removal of the need to win a championship or even finish runners-up to qualify would inevitably reduce the status of the Premiership and its equivalent in western Europe. The way United patterned through Saturday's game was an alarming portent for what may lie ahead once a European League has been set up in two years. Take away the prime incentive for winning a domestic league and this is what you could get. On Wednesday, United will defend a 2-0 lead in Leeds as they try to secure themselves a place in the Champions



Hammer hold... the £12.6 million debutant Dwight Yorke is shackled by West Ham's Ian Pearce. PHOTOGRAPH: GARY M PEARSON

League with its generous financial guarantees. And although this return game may not have weighed too heavily on the minds of Alex Ferguson's players at Upton Park, it was all too easy to imagine such a neutral performance becoming a regular occurrence as United prepared to face, say, Juventus or Barcelona in midweek. That, at least, was the effect of United's football on Saturday. Obviously they set out to achieve more and might well have done so had a blatant handball by Neil Ruddock, making his first home appearance for West Ham since joining from Liverpool, been spotted in the third minute. Ruddock, beaten by Ryan Giggs's cross with Andy Cole coming in to meet it, palmed the ball behind for a corner when the situation demanded a penalty. But the referee

Peter Jones could not give what he plainly had not seen. Ruddock turned out to be one of the two best players, the other being one of United's centre-backs, Henning Berg, who replaced the injured Jaap Stam. In signing Ruddock, West Ham paid approximately one-tenth of the £10.75 million that Stam cost and Ruddock proceeded to query further the £12.6 million United have laid out for Dwight Yorke. Not that Yorke was much to blame, since he began his new career in a largely unsuitable role. In his nine years with Aston Villa he evolved from a scoring winger with pace and a natural left foot into an all-round creative talent who still found the net regularly. If he is to thrive he must surely remain a free spirit. At Upton Park he was played up alongside Cole and plied with the

sort of high balls which Ruddock could clear in his sleep — and without using his hands. Rarely did he receive passes to his feet. It would be wrong to judge Yorke on one appearance, but the fact that Paul Scholes was left out to make way for him may have puzzled United supporters all the same. Ferguson has a strong enough squad to shuffle the team around and there is still Jasper Blomqvist, the £4.4 million signing from Parma, to be considered once the Swedish winger is fit. Yet the omission of Scholes and the way Yorke was employed meant there was often an empty space behind the front runners unless Giggs or Beckham moved into the middle. Roy Keane and Nicky Butt were impeccable and Butt's marshalling of Eyal Berkovic, the theatrical fulcrum of West

Ham's attack, was one of the few items of note in an unmemorable game but Ferguson's team seldom developed the momentum which might have brought them their first league victory. This is not to say that United were entirely responsible for a contest that seldom rose above the lukewarm. West Ham, with their wing-backs Andrew Impey and Ian Lazardis restricted by the need to watch Giggs and Beckham, and with John Harrison looking ring-rusty, never really got going. Ruddock's early luck and all-round excellence, plus Shaka Hislop's sharp save to deny Cole shortly before half-time, preserved for Harry Redknapp's team the point for which they were probably the more grateful. The crowd were merely grateful for the final whistle.

Leicester City 2 Everton 0

Everton take their defeat sitting down

Adam Sills

"SIT down if you're going down." The goading cries have started already: the Everton fans have little reason to get out of their seats, and who is to say they will not be tears before bedtime in one themselves. Merseyside come the season's end on May 16? A section of Leicester fans refused to obey safety warnings to sit down. In conjunction with their mocking chants it was apt. The vibrant

home support relished Saturday's win, which confirmed the club's European credentials and the solid principles of even more solid defence. Ball-playing centre-halves have for a while been in vogue but, with a back line of Matt Elliott, Steve Walsh and Leicester's £2 million club-record signing Frank Sinclair, "get it away" is a far more effective command than "play away". The Leicester manager Martin O'Neill was certainly impressed: "We were really fantastic and we played football

as good as we've done in the Premiership." A delightful job from the evergreen Tony Cottee and a tap-in from Muzzy Izet were just reward for a first-half performance which bristled with inventiveness, bite and organisation. Rumours surrounding the future of the striker Emile Heskey have abounded, though, and Leicester are reported to have turned down a \$3 million offer from Aston Villa. Heskey was diplomatic: "I've got one year left on my contract and we're holding talks at the moment. I'm

happy to stay but we'll see how it goes." He is not the finished article but, having been encouraged by O'Neill to turn and run at defenders, he will strike fear into the heart of defences everywhere. "He's frightening," Cottee confirmed. "People forget that he is only 20 years old and he won't peak for six or seven years." Cottee's and Heskey's cause was helped by an Everton defence which may prove their downfall this year. But where there is a satisfied wife there

is hope, and with the introduction of David Unsworth in the second half the visitors' back line at least had a focal point. The new manager Walter Smith spoke afterwards of "working out where the deficiencies are". Long-suffering fans might say "everywhere" despite the summer outlay of £13.5 million. Smith's impressive tenure at Rangers, where he won 12 trophies in six years, was blotted only by his grim record in Europe. This is unlikely to be a concern at Goodison.

كنا صالون



You'll never run alone... Liverpool's Michael Owen is pursued by Arsenal's defenders Martin Keown, right, and Nigel Winterburn in the goalless draw at Anfield

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Premiership: Liverpool 0 Arsenal 0

The double act agree: we have much to do

Ian Ross

DESPITE an annoying habit of delivering considerably less than initially indicating they would, there will still be many, many victories for Liverpool this season.

And yet, even in those moments of sweet triumph, many will feel sympathy for Roy Evans. Remember Evans? He is the Boot Room boy made good, the kid from Bootle with the neat line in self-deprecating humour, one who lived out the improbable dream of graduating from family spot on the Kop to Anfield's managerial office.

Last month he was informed that his duties would

henceforth be shared with Liverpool's first foreign coach, the respected Frenchman Gérard Houllier.

Houllier's arrival prompted a series of public announcements — or from Evans's perspective, a series of carefully worded reassurances. Houllier was not Evans's successor brought in early to oversee his removal, neither was he to have the final word on tactics, transfers, etc. No, this was a partnership, straight down the middle.

The result is a rather bizarre at-the-ship heading, one reaching its ludicrous logical conclusion in the post-match press conference. It is Edinburgh Fringe material.

On Saturday, after Arsenal's wretched finishing en-

suared Liverpool escaped with a point, Houllier and Evans skipped into the media lounge like dancers doing a tango.

It was like an end-of-pier show by the Chuckle Brothers. Roy spoke, Gérard agreed. Gérard spoke, Roy concurred.

They decided that the draw was fair and that, surprise, surprise, their relationship was blossoming. Roy now knows he'll never walk alone, well, until the day dawns when someone upstairs decides the great experiment was just that: a great experiment.

Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger, a close friend of Houllier, yet finds it difficult to back anything other than the traditional theory which cannot separate good managers from effective dictators.

"It could be a good marriage, an effective marriage, even if in this job I do not actually believe in marriages," he said wryly.

If Liverpool succeed this season, winning a first league title in nine years, Houllier will be credited with providing the missing ingredient. But if they again fall short, Evans will carry the can.

It is the classic no-win situation for a thoroughly decent bloke who would have no need at all for a touchline sidekick had those in whom he placed his faith — an array of very expensive footballers — not betrayed his trust.

"We were impatient to do well early on," said Evans, as Houllier nodded his head.

"We both believe that we can improve technically."

They can indeed. Liverpool's football was so drenched in adrenalin that it had neither fluency nor direction. In trying to sweep Arsenal off their feet they succeeded only in painting themselves into a corner.

Michael Owen, always seemed likely to provide the defining moment but he was blocked by Stuart Pearce only near Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Chelsea's goal was classy. Gianfranco Zola played a couple of one-two with Gustavo Poyet, whose shot was blocked by Stuart Pearce only near Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Chelsea's goal was classy. Gianfranco Zola played a couple of one-two with Gustavo Poyet, whose shot was blocked by Stuart Pearce only near Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Match stats

	Liv	Ars
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	2	4
Attempts off target	13	8
Corners	5	4
Fouls	13	9
Offsides	4	1
Bookings	0	3
Sendings-off	0	0

benefit from the brainless running of Jason McAteer and the ridiculous over-ambition of Patrik Berger.

Liverpool's best chance of edging a game of furious effort but no great style came just before the hour when David Elzary decided Lee Dixon had not — as it appeared — tugged at Karlheinz Riedle's shirt shortly before the German was sent by Martin Keown's outstretched leg.

Arsenal were the happier of the two. Wenger's decision to replace the potent Nicolas Anelka with Nelson Viana five minutes from the end underlining that sense of contentment.

"Those who played in the World Cup finals are not yet sharp, so this was a point gained," said Wenger.

"We could have scored early on and late on, but we didn't and that is why we lost two points," he said in a pointed reference to dreadful misses by Ray Parlour in the first half and Dennis Bergkamp in the second.

Both Arsenal and Liverpool will play better and yet lose in the months ahead. Wenger knows that, and Evans and Houllier. And probably the Chuckle Brothers, too.

On the defensive

While Arsenal-Wenger believes he has "the best back four in the world", Liverpool's defence is more commonly regarded as the team's fatal flaw. Here is how they fared at Anfield.

	Heggen	Stanton	Babb	Carragher
Minutes on pitch	90	90	90	90
Defending				
Tackles attempted	6	3	5	2
Success rate	17%	67%	80%	50%
Blocks	0	0	0	0
Clearances	6	15	17	7
Interceptions	0	2	0	0
Passing				
Goal assists	0	0	0	0
Total passes	27	62	32	29
Success rate	85%	82%	84%	93%
Fouls	0	0	0	0

	Dennis	Whistler	Keown	Boak
Minutes on pitch	90	90	90	90
Defending				
Tackles attempted	4	1	2	2
Success rate	50%	100%	100%	100%
Blocks	1	1	1	0
Clearances	6	10	9	0
Interceptions	1	1	0	0
Passing				
Goal assists	0	0	0	0
Total passes	47	39	38	38
Success rate	79%	82%	82%	97%
Fouls	2	1	0	0

Owen agrees £5m Anfield contract

MICHAEL OWEN has signed a new five-year contract worth about £20,000 a week with Liverpool, who are also confident of finalising negotiations with his England teammate Steve McManis.

Owen, 18, has doubled his wages to become the

world's highest-paid teenage player, and the deal ends off interest from such clubs as Juventus, Internazionale and Barcelona.

Meanwhile McManis said talks were at an advanced stage and "hopefully something should be sorted out very soon".

Nottingham Forest 1
Coventry City 0

Survival is Bassett's eternal work

John Lawson

DAVE BASSETT, one of the most eternal of all football survivors, faces a demanding nine months to maintain Nottingham Forest's newly-won Premiership status. But you get the impression that the man who honed his managerial skills at Plough Lane will thrive in the manner that fashioned Wimbledon's amazing rise to the top flight.

He entered the season stripped of four of his best players — Kevin Campbell and Colin Cooper have left, Pierre van Hooijdonk is somewhere in Holland and Chris Bart-Williams is injured — but in true Wimbledon style he patched Forest up and they rallied to their critics and Coventry alike.

It was a display which contained more grit than quality but, armed with a slice of fortune and Coventry's shortcomings in front of goal, they gained their first win of the season.

Steve Stone's 51st-minute strike gave them something to bite on and he said later: "We know that we don't have as much talent as we had last season. But we also know that we have to make up for that by working even harder for each other."

Coventry, after their winning start to the season against Chelsea, should have capitalised on Forest's weaknesses. "We had the chances to have gone top of the table," said their manager Gordon Strachan, "and that would have been something new for us."

The fact that they did not succeed was down to the 39-year-old Dave Bassett in goal, performing as well as he did when stepped in those Wimbledon ways alongside Bassett.

Hodgson anger over claims of 'moaning' strike pair

BLACKBURN's manager Roy Hodgson has taken the unusual step of issuing statements to the Scottish and Swedish Football Associations denying that two of his top strikers are unsettled at Ewood Park.

Kevin Gallacher and Martin Dahlin started this season on the bench after the arrival of Blackburn's £7.25 million record signing Kevin Davies.

But Hodgson insists neither player has kicked up a fuss, and he has contacted their countries' associations to say on, thus protecting their international futures.

"Both players are upset that their reputations have been sullied," said Hodgson. "I am very unhappy about a salacious headline which appears to suggest that Kevin and Martin are moaning about the situation and me telling them to stop moaning."

"In a squad system some players play and some players don't. But there is no question of any moaning and both of them have been training hard and working hard."

Hodgson is likely to stick with Davies and Chris Sutton as his front pair at Leeds tonight, with his only dilemma whether to give a debut to the £5.3 million Christian Dailly or give Darren Peacock, recovered from injury, a defensive place alongside Stephane Renchoix.

"It's been a whirlwind few days for Christian and it will take time for him to settle," said Hodgson. "But he has looked good in training."

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Leeds' top scorer with 22 goals last season, returns after missing the 0-0 draw at Middlesbrough through suspension.

In the French League, Laurent Blanc converted a match-winning, injury-time penalty as Marseille scored five second-half goals in an astonishing 5-4 win over Montpellier after trailing 0-4 at the interval. Marseille are top.

Chelsea 1 Newcastle 1

Chelsea tire of excuses

Martin Thorpe

EXCUSES have a more plausible ring about them at the start of a season. Managers of spluttering teams can credibly blame the short summer break or, this year, a protracted summer tournament for their players' early failings.

Gianluca Vialli took this opportunity on Saturday, asserting that Chelsea, after taking only one point from six, will be winning again once the summer cobwebs have blown away. Kenny Dalglish, however, followed similar lines as he reflected on Newcastle's two points out of six.

If such excuses continue, however, few excuses will quell the already growing suspicions that Chelsea and Newcastle just do not have what it takes to win the Premiership.

Arsenal, for instance, would not have let a 1-0 lead slip. Chelsea did with a typically sloppy giveaway goal. And, although Chelsea's tactical attitude last season was overly cavalier, the trap which Vialli must avoid — and Dalglish has fallen into — is going too far the other way in search of consistency.

All the hard work put in by the players early on, in closing Newcastle down, backfired when they found themselves too tired in the last 20 minutes to mount the sort of Light Brigade assault on the Newcastle goal which was such a thrilling part of the Gullit years and which often saw victory snatched from the jaws of a draw. Indeed, the flowing, one-touch movements on which Chelsea have made their name recently were few and far between.

Perhaps their fatigue can be put down to an early-season lack of full fitness. Other excuses for the team's pallid demeanour include the absence of Dennis Wise, suspended, and the new signing Brian Laudrup, injured though near to full recovery.

As for the other new arrivals, Marcel Desailly, moved into midfield in Wise's absence, was a solid but uninspired presence, and the out-of-touch Pierluigi Casiraghi looked just what many people fear he is, a former star collecting his pension. Certainly the team will have to show more guile if Friday's European Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Chelsea's goal was classy. Gianfranco Zola played a couple of one-two with Gustavo Poyet, whose shot was blocked by Stuart Pearce only near Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Chelsea's goal was classy. Gianfranco Zola played a couple of one-two with Gustavo Poyet, whose shot was blocked by Stuart Pearce only near Super Cup meeting with Real Madrid is not to turn into a super embarrassment.

Match stats

	Chelsea	Newcastle
Possession	53%	47%
Attempts on target	2	4
Attempts off target	13	8
Corners	5	4
Fouls	13	9
Offsides	4	1
Bookings	0	3
Sendings-off	0	0

even though, if it is any consolation to them, this performance was a vast improvement on the corresponding fixture last season when Chelsea won 1-0.

Total commitment underpinned Newcastle's strategy but there were also some signs of a burgeoning balance and understanding which, along with confidence and luck, comprise the make-up of a successful team.

Even so, the harsh fact is that there was 270 million of talent on view on Saturday, not to mention 16 different nationalities on the pitch at some stage, yet still both these teams struggle to convince. Excuses have only a limited shelf-life.



Arched rivals... Desailly stretches Shearer

JOHN BASS

Derby County 0 Wimbledon 0

Winter departs in a hail of protest

Michael Walker

IT WAS a moment of such good humour that Stan Collymore's Liverpool career should have ended there and then. At Parc des Princes two seasons ago, and after less than 20 minutes of another truly dreadful Liverpool performance, against Paris St-Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup, the packed stadium had fallen silent. In the executive seats, not the cheap seats, a burly scouser could take no more. He stood up and, as loud as he possibly could, shouted: "Taxi! Collymore!"

The incident came to a warring mind at Pride Park on Saturday — mainly because the football on show was hardly monopolising the attention — and had the burly scouser been around his wit would surely have been directed at the referee.

After 28 minutes "Taxi for Winter" would have been an understandable cry as Jeff Smith agreed that, in effect, that surname had just rejected Derby's perfectly legitimate penalty claim and proceeded ludicrously to book Dean Sturridge for an alleged dive and his team-mate Igor Stimac for the zealousness of his follow-up complaint which involved dashing 50 yards and then colliding with the referee.

Sturridge had not dived but had been clipped by Andy Roberts, and having denied the penalty it appeared an afterthought that Winter felt obliged to book the Derby striker. Briefly disbeliever reigned, then everything became clear.

On the electronic scoreboard a message flashed up: "He's been booked, has your taxi?" it said, followed by the telephone number of a Derby cab firm. It is certainly a novel form of advertising that

relied on referees brandishing yellow cards, and Winter had just supplied a double whammy.

In a game of no bad tackles he then managed to offer three further promotional opportunities, none of which was the result of foul play. Wimbledon's Kenny Cunningham, Neil Sullivan and Alan Kimble were booked for time-wasting in the last 20 minutes, a concept everyone had the heads around by the final whistle.

Having blown it — in a couple of senses — Winter edged off, nervously trying to block out the fury in the stands. A couple of minutes earlier he had made a correct decision, overruling Paulo Wanchope's injury-time effort because of a push unseen by many. But it served only to make the home fans even more unhappy.

It was the Sturridge non-penalty, however, which occupied most thoughts and the Derby manager Jim Smith agreed that, in effect, Sturridge was being labelled a cheat by Winter. "We've told Sturridge to dive more often," Smith joked before adding, seriously, "It was a definite penalty. I've seen the video."

Sturridge called the decision "a disgrace" and then explained why he would not have dived. "It was a few yards from goal and I would definitely have scored."

Unsurprisingly Wimbledon's Joe Kinnear saw it otherwise and overall he appeared none too displeased about a game of no saves. Smith to his credit did not go on about the disallowed goal; the nearest he came to a moan was when he said Winter has "no romance in his soul". No romance, maybe, but the odds are that he had a taxi waiting to take him home to Stockton-on-Tees.

Charlton 5 Soton 0

Charlton hit the ground running

Rick Everitt, a lifelong Addicks fan, sees the club's first top-flight game in SE7 for 41 years

THIS was how it was supposed to be. Twelve seasons ago Charlton Athletic marked the end of their 52-year exile from the old First Division with a 1-1 draw at home to Sheffield Wednesday. It should have been a party, but no-body came.

Then chairman John Fryer had removed the club to Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park a year earlier for reasons little more substantial than was Southampton's defence on Saturday. It was the cruellest trick that fate could play on Charlton's embittered supporters.

Slowly, desperately, they began to fight back. In December 1982 the club came back to the ground to which Fryer had insisted they would "never, never return" but which the fans had never abandoned. And on Saturday, amid fireworks, balloons and other paraphernalia, the club staged a top-flight match in London SE7 for the first time since 1957.

The Valley will never be Old Trafford or Highbury. It never was. Its once huge capacity was testimony not to the quality of its facilities but to a lack of them. But, because of its history, no club ground is more cherished by its public. And with the new 6,000-seat main stand rising majestically in sight of the Millennium Dome, Floyds Road finally belongs among the elite.

Whether the team do has been the subject of much debate. The players gave their response to that on Saturday, crushing the incompetent Saints 5-0 to lead the Premiership table.

Because of the unfinished building work, Charlton had been ordered by the Premier League to lock out some of their 17,000 season-ticket holders to accommodate 800 Southampton fans, in addition to beaming the game back to The Dell. After this performance, the visitors will wish the league had not bothered.

True, Clive Mendonca scored his second-half hat-trick only after the goalkeeper Paul Jones had been sent off for bringing him down, David Howells marking his debut by going in goal and immediately failing to save the resultant

The Valley years

1921 Elected to Football League
1934-37 From Third Division also-rans to First Division runners-up in three years
1947 FA Cup winners, a year after losing in the first round
1957 Relegated from First Division, conceding 120 goals
1958 Abandoned The Valley, citing safety problems and dispute with owner
1959 Promoted to First Division, along with neighbours Wimbledon
1960 Relegated but Valley Party won 14,838 votes in local elections
1962 Returned to 2,337-capacity Valley, beating Portsmouth 1-0
1968 Promoted to Premiership after Wembley play-off
penalty. But such was Charlton's domination that they had two goals disallowed and could have been five up before half-time.

John Robinson took only four minutes to open the scoring and Neil Redfearn got his first for the club within half a minute of the restart. It was impossible to ignore — my dreams, when 10% years ago I put to bed the first issue of the fanzine Voice of The Valley.

There are no battles left to fight in SE7 any more. History has echoed around The Valley too long, but now the fans have new heroes — some of them even directors — and the Premiership has gained an extraordinary aura of goals and drama.

Of course the Charlton players have much to learn in little time. Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool line up to teach them harsh lessons over the next few weeks. But if anyone fears football has completely lost its soul, visit The Valley. See the beaming faces and hear the excited buzz of the disbelieving fans. And pray that it is not too late for the higher echelons of the game to accommodate such rich romance.

The Guardian Monday August 24 1998

Europe

[illegible]

RC Lepa
Nancy

Germany	3	0	1	2	0	1	0
France	2	0	1	1	2	0	1
Italy	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Spain	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Sweden	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Belgium	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Denmark	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
England	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
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Scotland	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
U.S.S.R.	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Poland	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Czechoslovakia	3	0	1				

NAC Breda	2
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Spagna Arribien	1	Roda JC Kerkrade	0
FRV Maastricht	1	G Oosterschelde	0
neerlanden	1	PSV Eindhoven	0
2 Alkmaar	2	Spaan Rotterdam	0
GK Waaivijk	0	NED Breda	1

SPANISH SUPERCUP: Second leg
 Barcelona 0 Mallorca 1 (agg. 0-1).

U.S. LEAGUE: Hardsheep
 1. Orlando 3, 2. Seawards 6, 3. Gemini 1, 4. Evers 0, 5. Jetties 3, 6. Lommel 2, 7. Brevens 1: A-berkeley 3, 8. Seawards 1, 9. Lohansen 2, 10. Gemini 0, 11. Gemini 0, 12. Seawards 4, 13. Jetties 0, 14. Brevens 2, 15. Seawards 2, 16. Standard 1, 17. Sint-Truiden 0, 18. Extensior Moe-berkeley 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Saturday
 1. Porto 4, 2. Fco Avo 4, 3. Fc. Porto 3, 4. Belra 1, 5. Benfica 2, 6. Estrela Amadora 0.

Referees table

Willsie
Harris

	1	0	5	3.00
Inter	1	0	5	5.00
red	1	0	5	5.00
erry	1	0	4	4.00
ingher	1	1	4	4.00
ange	1	0	4	4.00
ress	1	0	4	4.00
erry	2	0	5	3.00
cock	2	0	5	2.50
orkin	1	0	2	2.00
li	1	0	2	2.00
ey	1	0	2	2.00

Top supporters			
	High	Low	Avg
tu Utd	55,052	56,052	55,052
verpool	44,429	34,429	44,429
erson	40,112	40,112	40,112
tant	38,064	38,064	38,064

Chelmsford	3
High Wycombe	3
Tottenham	3

John Villa	29,556	29,556	29,556
Scott McLean	29,039	29,039	29,039
Roberts	25,747	25,747	25,747
McCarthy	24,007	24,007	24,007
Devereux	23,042	23,042	23,042
Ambridge	23,031	23,031	23,031
West	22,546	22,546	22,546
McGee	21,037	21,037	21,037
McDonnell	18,489	18,489	18,489
McDonnell	15,202	15,202	15,202

A goal by Phil Scott gave St Johnstone three points from a 1-0 win in the Clyde derby and kept Dundee stuck 1-0 to the bottom of the Scottish Premier League. The Perth side's former Scotland international, Scott, headed the winner on an hour at Dens Park.

Scott did well to recover possession and take a right-foot shot into the corner of the net. George O'Boyle headed down the right cross from the right.

give Saints their first season — and their Dundee have still

ace two points behind Rotham, who maintained their 60 per cent start by beating Cambridge United 2-0 through second-half goals by

Glover. Rothe
Mike Pollitt =

st before the end.
In Devon's high-noon show-
down at Plainmoor, Torquay
revelled against Exeter
anks to Scott Partridge's
ird goal of the season.
He struck with five minutes
ft, leaving Exeter little time
recover and their manager
eter Fox very disappointed.
"We totally outplayed them,"
said, "and to have 80 per
nt of the play and to come
way with nothing is
iminal."

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Arjuna Ranatunga leads Sri Lanka in the final Test of England's summer, starting at The Oval on Thursday. **David Hopps** meets the most influential cricketer on the world stage today

Power behind a genial image

IN terms of English cricket Alec Stewart's influence will have risen markedly since the Test series victory over South Africa. He will captain England in Australia this winter with largely the Ashes squad he wants and can be sure that his stock will remain considerable just as long as victories keep falling his way. But, when it comes to true power, Stewart is but a bit-part player in comparison with Arjuna Ranatunga. When Sri Lanka's captain leads out his team for their one-off Test at The Oval on Thursday, he does so as the most powerful cricketer in the world. Ranatunga does not immediately strike the casual English observer as a cricketing dictator. Perhaps it is all that disarming banter about his tubby appearance, or perhaps it is assumed that, in the island that gave the world "serendipity", control tends to fall to the deserving by good fortune rather than design. But investigate the extent of Ranatunga's authority in Colombo and the answers soon become inescapable. How powerful? All powerful. How long will he survive? As long as he wants. How often does he get his way? Always. His legacy is regarded as considerable even by those outside his favoured circle. "Arjuna Ranatunga is to Sri Lanka what WG Grace was to English cricket a century ago," concluded one prominent Colombo businessman and former cricket official. "Like Grace did in England, he has wielded tremendous power over many years and during that time he has revolutionised the game. Who would ever have imagined that Sri Lanka would become World Cup winners?" He is a leader, shrewd and uncompromising, brooks no nonsense and he is not always open to reason. Many people question how he was ever allowed to gain so much control. But, if you add up the

pluses and minuses, he still comes out as a plus. He has taken our cricket to a new plane. While doing so, Ranatunga has lost a few friends along the way. Still wildly popular in the country at large, he has offended too many sensibilities in Colombo's politicking circles to receive unreserved acclaim. He is a strong-willed individual who will tenaciously oppose those who dare to question his views. "Who is this hooligan?" asked a former Sri Lankan chairman of selectors two decades ago on watching Ranatunga, an unknown teenager from the sticks, lofting the ball in the air at one of his first net sessions at the Sinhalese Sports Club. Some ask the same question rhetorically today. Ranatunga is a street-fighter in the Javed Miandad class. Mark Taylor, the Australian captain, has described him as an "abrasive customer who deliberately gets up the opposition's nose" and he was not being particularly critical. It is what has made him indispensable. Sri Lanka's image as a genial, happy-go-lucky cricketing country, immensely polite and easily intimidated — the perfect losers, in fact — has become increasingly outdated under his charge. "I was the first Sri Lankan to give the Australians some stick back," he reflects proudly. "Test cricket is as much a mind game as a technical game and, whether you talk back or keep quiet, you must maintain your concentration." He comes from a family that has extensive political and cricketing influence. His father, Reggie, an MP in President Kumaratunga's Freedom Party, the majority party, is a deputy minister in Sri Lanka's coalition government. The Minister of Sport, SE Dissanayake, is a close ally of Reggie Ranatunga. Although the Sri Lankan cricket board nominates a

short-list of selectors, it is Dissanayake who makes the final choice. It would be a surprise if the Minister made that decision while unaware of Arjuna's preferences. Although only Arjuna, of six brothers, has had a long-term Test career, four of them have played international cricket. Dhammika is chief executive of the cricket board. Prasanna is also a board member, by virtue of his presidency of the Gampaha District Cricket Association. Only Prasanna, a provincial minister, has so far entered a political career but Arjuna would be a great asset for a coalition government possessing a one-seat majority. He is already receiving overtures to take up politics when he decides to retire from the Sri Lankan captaincy. And he will decide; no one else is about to make the decision for him. **P**OLITICS in Sri Lanka, as long as the Tamil Tigers continue their terrorist activities in search of an independent state in the north and east of the island, is no sinecure. Understandably Arjuna is undecided about his future. "I have a young son and daughter, and I've been neglecting them," he said. "We've only had two months off since winning the World Cup and after I retire I want to spend at least a year thinking about things. Politics is a dangerous business." The family have known the perils. Twenty-one years ago a change of government led to the Ranatunga house in Gampaha, a pineapple-growing area an hour to the north-east of Colombo, being burned down in an act of political revenge. "My father was the area political organiser," Arjuna recalled. "We had no insurance and we had to leave the area for fear that my father would be attacked. At that time I was captain of the

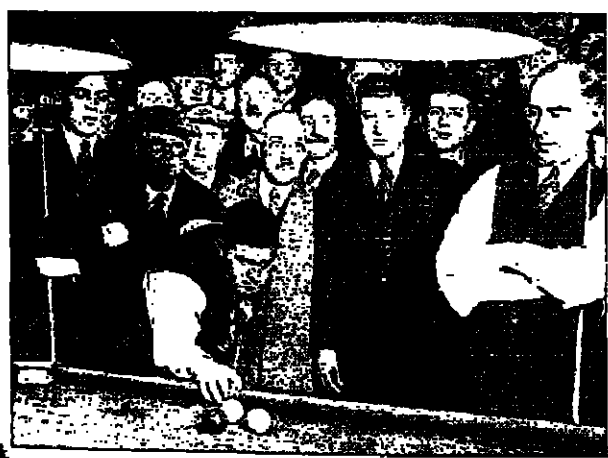
under-14 side at Ananda College. For six months the only cricket equipment I had was one shirt and one pair of trousers. A lot of people looked after me." Family loyalties invariably run deep for Ranatunga. "Ours is a passive and respectful culture," he said. "Even now I never put my feet up when my mother and father are in the same room. I have an occasional drink but never in my father's company. We must respect our elders." Street-fighter he might be but he seeks to adapt that culture to Sri Lankan cricket. He routinely refers to the manager, Ranjit Fernando, and coach, Roy Dias, as "Aiya", which translates from Sinhala as "elder brother", and expects team-mates to offer him the same deference. There was a time about 10 years ago when one or two coaches suggested that we should stop this. I said that I expected it. I don't think that I will ever call the coach or manager by their name. When you hear that word, you know that you are respected and looked up to." That emphasis on family means that Ranatunga is not always responsive to rival ideas from outside. When Dev Wharmore, the Sri Lankan-born Australian, coached them to World Cup victory three years ago, he was widely credited with the adoption of

the high-risk batting tactics in the opening overs that played such a huge part in their success. His introduction of modern training and dietary methods was also overdue. Wharmore, a gentle and responsive man, had little desire to play power politics. But, if Ranatunga

was content for Sanath Jayasuriya, the batting star of the World Cup, to share the nation's adulation, the prospect of Whatmore becoming the dominant figure in Sri Lankan cricket was less attractive. Within months Whatmore had been replaced. This season he has rejuvenated Lancashire to such an extent that, as well as reaching the NatWest final, they are making a rare challenge for the championship. He is still embittered by the Sri Lankan experience. This is likely to be Ranatunga's last Test in England — by the time Sri Lanka return for an overdue three-Test series

in 2003 the odds are he will be encoached as coach — but he expects to return for next summer's World Cup. The slimming down of a portly frame by nearly two stones over the past year should help. "There are three things I really love in life, my cricket, my kids and my food, and I've had to sacrifice my food," said the batsman whose bat sponsorship currently espouses the attraction of Sam's Chicken and Ribs. "I'm also following a more strenuous training programme but I damaged a disc in my back six years ago, so there is a limit to what I can do." **"**LIKE people talking about my weight and I like walking my singles in Test cricket. I wouldn't recommend it to young players but I reckon I've won more overthrows in the past 10 years than any player in the world." Nearly 17 years have passed since Ranatunga made his debut in Sri Lanka's inaugural Test against England at the now run-down Sarawana-mattu Stadium in Colombo. He made a half-century in the first innings, despite a twicely journey of two hours by train and bus to get to the ground. He travelled third-class and received a seat only because the railway staff, all cricket fans, looked after him. His parents had wanted

him to become a doctor. Ranatunga himself has imagined being a pilot: 81 Tests and nearly 5,000 runs later such ambitions have long been forgotten. But the memories of his trying early years continue to live with him. He is a tireless champion of improving cricket in the rural areas and breaking a traditional reliance on the Colombo and Kandy colleges — a broadening of their cricketing base that has had much to do with their recent success. "Players from the rural areas have had to survive with hardly any equipment or facilities," he says. "They have had to work hard for their success. They are greedy to succeed. It is all relative. All but the most cosseted college cricketers can face the prospect of an arduous bus journey home after net practice as much as five times a week." One of Arjuna Ranatunga's delights at winning the World Cup was that President Kumaratunga guaranteed him land on which, with the help of private fund-raising, a hostel will be built for promising young cricketers visiting Colombo from the outlying areas. It will be far from his only legacy but it will be among those he holds most dear. He has waited a long time for the chance to lead a Sri Lankan side at Lord's but he has achieved his wish. They will tell you in Colombo that he normally does.



Way back when
Clive Everton remembers Walter Lindrum, who was so good he was bad for billiards

Break man... Lindrum, born 100 years ago this week, keeps Willie Smith waiting in London, 1929. PHOTOGRAPH: HALTON GETTY

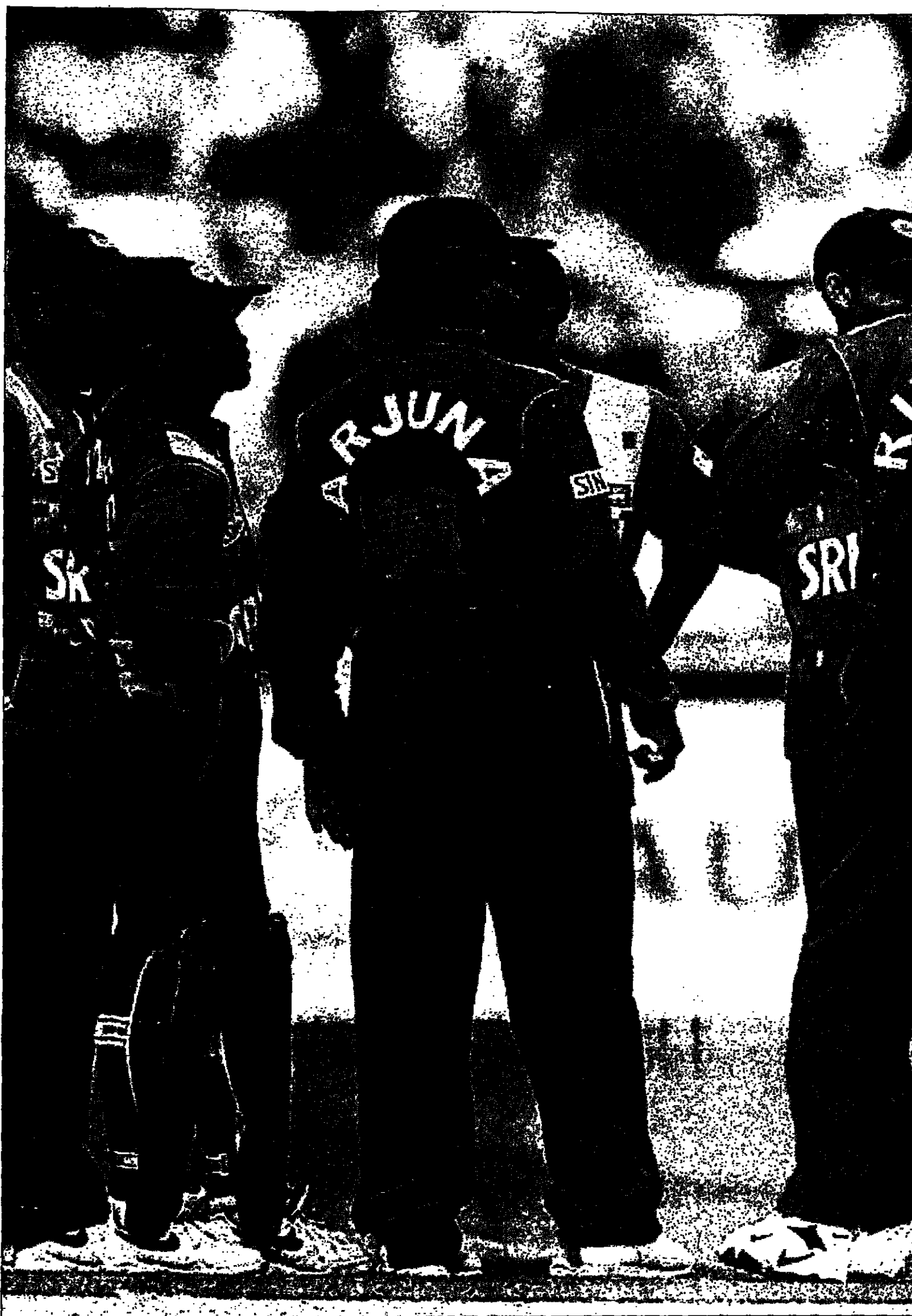
AUGUST 23, 1898, was a good day for Fred Lindrum II, the Australian billiards champion. He won a money match in the Shamrock Hotel, Kalgoolie, and his fourth child, Walter, was born. That babe was to conquer billiards as no player has ever conquered any other sport. Walter Lindrum and his nearest rivals, two Englishmen, Joe Davis and Tom Newman, and a New Zealander, Clark McConachy, reached such a standard, with such an inhuman elimination of error, that billiards was to become the only game ever to perish as a sustainable spectator sport because its leading

exponents became too good. Fred Lindrum was obsessed with the idea of having a world champion in the family. He knew he was not up to it himself and neither, despite a promising start, was his eldest son, Fred Lindrum III. It was soon apparent that Walter was. He was a natural right-hander but had to have his right index finger amputated in childhood when he caught it in a mangle. He became a left-hander and all his personal, educational and social development was sacrificed for billiards. Sometimes his father would lock him away in the billiard room of his hotel with only one ball so

that he would learn to strike it accurately. Sometimes he was given the red as well so that he became virtually infallible with in-offs and potting the red from its spot. The fragile competitive structure of those days took second place to matches arranged by promoters, usually lasting a week, sometimes a fortnight. When HW Stevenson, a former champion, came out from England in 1923, the young Lindrum hit him with a break of 1,417. Every shot but the first either a pot or in-off red. Stevenson sniffed that this was "not billiards" but was politely referred to the scoreboard. Soon

afterwards, not just because of Lindrum, the rules were altered to allow only 25 consecutive pots and/or in-offs. In 1928 Willie Smith was playing a week's match against Newman in Manchester. He was joined for tea during the interval by two boxers of the day, Jimmy Wilde and Jim Driscoll, and a professional backer Leo Oppenheimer. Wilde asked him how he was getting on. "Not bad, I'm 2,250 unfinished." (He took it to 3,743 in the evening.) Oppenheimer immediately wrote out a cheque for £500 to back him against Lindrum. Smith put a match to it. "What are you doing?" "I'm saving

you money. I've got no chance." Smith, who could play the all-round game just about as well as it could be played, did not have nursery cannons (where the three balls were nursed delicately along a cushion and even past the pocket openings) in his repertoire. He said it would take him about four minutes to make a century whereas Lindrum, with his cannon game, could make one in less than two. "Why are you going then?" "For the money." Lindrum won the first game of the series, Smith the second, making a break of 1,028 in 67 minutes on the last day. A Sydney newspaper put



Key moments in Sri Lanka's coming of age

March 1982

Sidath Wettimuny, playing against Pakistan in Faisalabad, became Sri Lanka's first Test centurion in their third match. He also shared their first century stand (217) with the current coach Roy Dias. Somachandra De Silva (right) then became their first bowler to take five wickets in an innings (five for 59) as Pakistan, chasing 339, slithered to 137 for six but held out. It was the only time Sri Lanka avoided defeat in their first eight Tests.

August 1984

At Lord's Wettimuny was at it again, with 190 out of 481 for seven declared, both Sri Lanka records. England, already beaten 5-0 by West Indies that summer, had

to put up with him for well over 10 hours. Later Duleep Mendis became the first Sri Lanka skipper to reach three figures. Allan Lamb's 107 saved England. Still it was not a bad initiation for Aravinda de Silva on his debut.

September 1985

Sri Lanka prevailed in the second Test of the rubber against India at Colombo's P. Saravanamuttu Stadium, winning a Test at the 14th attempt (New Zealand did so at the 45th). The

season's Ranjitsinghe took nine for 125, a national best for a decade, and yet another dazzling de Silva. Arnel, became the first wicketkeeper to score a century and pocket nine victims in a Test. In Kandy a week later Mendis (left) became the first Sri Lankan to reach 1,000 Test runs as a draw secured the series.

July 1997

30,000 thronged the R Premadasa Stadium to see if Sarath Jayasuriya (far right), 326 not out against India, could overhaul Brian Lara's 375. He fell for 340 but Sri Lanka reached an unprecedented 952



Test record

	M	A	W	D	L
Australia	10	4	6	0	3
England	5	2	3	1	3
India	19	5	11	1	7
New Zealand	18	3	8	4	7
Pakistan	19	7	12	3	7
South Africa	5	7	2	0	2
West Indies	3	1	2	0	2
Zimbabwe	7	4	3	4	3
Total	86	38	48	13	37



for six, adding 578 with Roshan Mahanama to outstrip the previous highest Test stand by 108.

March 1998

Inspired by the off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (left), who took seven wickets, they won the third Test against New Zealand in Colombo, becoming the fifth side to come from behind to win a three-match rubber and the first to do so twice.

Rob Steen

Bonding on the bus to bust the dams on the field

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

SEASONAL Affective Disorder is the name given to a depression which strikes people only during the dark winter months. It is also the condition suffered by some football managers in August when the season is two weeks old and already going pear-shaped. Generally it takes the form of having crackdowns or losing grip on reality or telling a reporter to go and blow his own organs of reproduction after a mildly probing question at the post-match press conference.

After Reading's 4-1 defeat by Bristol Rovers Tommy Burns has banned alcohol, junk food and the use of mobile phones when travelling as a team. Instead he has installed a microwave in the bus to cook pasta for them. This should work well until someone mistakes it for the video and flambés Terminator 2. Burns says he does not want players having private conversations on mobiles when they should be bonding. Unfortunately most males are so horrified by the idea of expressing emotional closeness that they can do it only after lots of alcohol and bad curry. But perhaps the Reading players can get friendly by swapping pasta recipes. Other managers react to a poor start to the season by displaying classic symptoms of denial and possible delusions of grandeur. That is why they react to a 6-0 thrashing by the title

holders by saying, "We gave them a few anxious moments". "We rattled their cage" or "I still think we can challenge for a place in the top five". It goes without saying that they should not be taken any more seriously than an advertisement for hair restorer endorsed by Christian Gross.

Some of them manage teams which have just been promoted and are widely regarded as having as much chance of staying up as a hot air balloon containing Richard Branson. But potential survivors are already beginning to emerge.

A manager who says "I don't know if we deserved three points but we got them; that's what matters" is showing the ruthless pragmatism that will keep his side from relegation come what may, particularly if he is commenting on a victory achieved by taking a machine gun to the opposing back four.

On the other hand the manager who says "We've still got a few teething problems to iron out" is demonstrating that the club's campaign to stay in the top flight is being run by someone who thinks you get your fillings done in a laundrette.

The truly clueless manager pays attention to even the smallest detail, like the choice of tune to which his petrified and inexperienced troops run out. A sense of invincibility can be instilled by playing something macho and patriotic, as Wimbledon have proved by adopting as their theme the march from The Dam Busters.

Supporters should start worrying if their newly promoted club keeps emerging from the tunnel to All Kinds Of Everything or The Birdie Song. Even more disturbing is having Puff The Magic Dragon as the club anthem, especially if the centre-backs then sit around in the penalty box giggling and displaying an uncontrollable appetite for chocolate biscuits.

Some newly promoted managers react to early-season crises by trying to sign more players, generally foreign ones. Budgets already on an economy setting after millions have been spent trying to win promotion will be further eroded by the opportunistic greed of agents who know desperation when they smell it. The manager will discover a footballer has to cost £8 million before anyone outside his immediate family has heard of him. £3.5 million before he is actually capable of crossing the ball and at least £1.5 million if required to be alive from the neck down.

Then there is all the stress of looking after the new arrival. This is compounded if the player, having been attracted by the prospect of King's Road cafes, cosmopolitan teammates and meals in swanky restaurants with members of the celebrity set, has insisted to his agent that he will consider only a London club. Sadly the agent lacks an up-to-date A to Z street plan and has sold him to Leyton Orient.

AND while it is unsettling for a player to exchange life in a sunny climate for a place where he has to wear a wet suit to get from his car to the players entrance, it is not half as unsettling as for the manager when it turns out his signing is useless, psychopathic and terminally homesick, as well as having hideous features and hair like a rat's nest. In fact, it is worth bearing in mind that clubs which try to be like the big boys, sign a bunch of foreigners and hire a nutritionist who will not let players eat anything but gnocchi and carrot juice tend to last one season in the top flight, while loony, threedy-dimey managers such as Wimbledon get tipped for relegation every year, refuse to buy anyone at all, exist on a diet of fried Mars bars and Paragut, and prosper.

A woman in hot pursuit going for a Burton record

CENTRE STAGE

William Fotheringham

THE essence of the Italian cyclist can be summed up in a single image — that of a rider ascending a mountain alone, way ahead of the chasing pack. *Un uomo solo* was the sentence which immortalised Fausto Coppi in the 1950s and it was used again this summer as the little climber Marco Pantani won the Tour de France.

The image that best sums up the British cyclist is that of a solo cyclist on a velodrome, not riding a road race such as the Tour de France but engaged in the track pursuit. British cyclists have earned more medals in this slightly esoteric cycling discipline in the post-war years than in all the others put together. They include the only post-war Olympic gold won by Chris Boardman in the pursuit at Barcelona in 1992.

Boardman travels to Bordeaux this week in quest of a third pursuit gold medal in the World Track Championships. But even should he win in spite of his disastrous crash in this year's Tour de France, he will be well short of being the best Briton ever in the discipline. This honour is still held by the late Beryl Burton, who won the women's title five times between 1969 and 1986.

Just as Boardman has picked up the torch from Hugh Porter, four times champion between 1968 and 1973, Burton has her heirress in a fellow Yorkshirewoman Yvonne McGregor. After taking the title in 1992, she went to Perth, in Australia, to take the bronze medal in last year's World Championships.

Compared to the Tour de France, the pursuit is a brief, if repetitive, assault on the pain barrier. The principle is simple: two riders start on opposite sides of an oval velodrome — usually in a stadium these days, as at Bordeaux, and their British counterpart, Manchester — and pursue each other over the set distance. For Boardman and company this is four kilometres, for McGregor three.

In theory the object of the exercise is for the stronger cyclist to make up the half-lap. In practice this happens only



Tyke of the track... Yvonne McGregor PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL O'CONNOR

when the difference in ability or strength is particularly marked, and usually the two cyclists are simply timed for the set distance, and the faster wins. Aerodynamic bikes mean that McGregor will be in action for barely three and a half minutes in each round.

A qualifying round decides the fastest eight and then it is sudden death to the final. Compared to the infinite nuances of road racing, pursuit is barely tactical. It is principally a question of the cyclist calculating how much energy they can expend to keep their opponent within or just out of reach before the crescendo into exhaustion.

The physical effort is intense but not as obvious as, say, Pantani climbing L'Alpe d'Huez. So what intrigues is the psychological battle, the more so now the cyclists' faces are hidden by aerodynamic helmets.

Coping with pain is not a problem for McGregor, who regularly broke bones in her early years — she managed to smash collarbone, shoulder and cheekbone in 1995 alone. A very sense of humour helped her cope with four major accidents in three years. Like Boardman, she has held the world distance record for one hour, the toughest feat, in terms of distilled agony that cycling has to offer outside the Tour.

The Boardman connection runs deep: since 1983 she has been part of the team which Boardman set up to bring on Olympic prospects; famously Boardman has helped repair her bike on occasions in the past, and she has shared the expertise of the sports scientist Peter Keen, who guided

the Wirral racer to his Barcelona goal. Their training plan for Atlanta's humidity included riding a stationary bike in the bath room with the central heating on and the shower running.

McGregor has moved across the Pennines to be close to the Manchester velodrome but she is all Yorkshirewoman in her accent and her penchant for plain speaking. The Leeds-born Burton is her model; McGregor, from Bradford, was inspired to take up cycling when she took Burton's autobiography Personal Best out of the library after an Achilles tendon injury put paid to her running career.

She has taken several of Burton's British time-trial records but, whereas her fellow Yorkshirewoman remained a British-based cyclist throughout her career, making an annual sortie abroad to pick up her medals in the World Championships, McGregor has recognised the need to race on the women's circuit in Europe to improve her strength and moved into the top five on the world road rankings earlier this year.

The next few weeks are vital ones for her and Keen, who for the last nine months has been performance director of British cycling, responsible for turning Lottery money into medals. McGregor views this week in Bordeaux as a dry run for the Commonwealth Games, where she took gold in the track points race in 1994. Keen is well aware that the Games will be the first high-profile display of what he has achieved, and that McGregor is one of his few reliable hopes for a medal.

up a 100-guinea silver tea service as a prize for the decider. Smith's cue snapped near the tip with his first shot. A betting ring had got at it. Asked at the age of 90 how long it took to get used to another Smith replied: "I never did." Worse befell Lindrum. His pregnant 20-year-old girlfriend Rosie was knocked down by a bus and was in hospital when the match started. She had set her heart on the tea service but developed pneumonia. Lindrum's early lead of 2,000 dwindled and Smith got in front as Lindrum, distracted, visited Rosie in hospital in all his spare moments.

She reminded him of the tea service: "Wally you've got to make a 2,000 break for me." He carried his unfinished 155 to 2,002 and the next evening was 2,128 in front again when Rosie suffered a relapse. Lindrum summoned a minister and, with Rosie barely conscious and able to sign the certificate only with an X, they were married. A few hours later she died. The match was abandoned and Lindrum was presented with the tea service.

This traumatic experience made Lindrum, if anything, more obsessive about billiards, vague and difficult to deal with and, except when he

was playing in public, prone to depression and lethargy. Meanwhile Smith had signed him to a contract with Burroughes and Watts, the table-makers, to play in Britain. With the World Championship being played in the Leicester Square matchroom of their rivals Thurston, Smith and Lindrum toured the country and the public knew the real No.1 was being decided between them. Smith averaged 109 per visit to the table, which was usually good enough to win the World Championship. Lindrum averaged 282 and won 36,256-14,971.

Lindrum was so far in a

class of his own that he conceded Davis, Newman and McConachy a 7,000 start each in another contest the following year and still won first prize. In 1932 at Thurston's he played through most of an afternoon, all the evening and well into the next afternoon on a break of 4,137.

In 1933 Lindrum eventually played in the World Championship and won it but made it clear he would never return. Davis thus sailed to Australia in 1934 to challenge for the title, only to find that Lindrum had done nothing to promote the championship or any exhibition matches. Lindrum retained the title and it took

Davis six months to earn enough to get home.

Davis turned to snooker, guiding it into its first great era of popularity after the war. Lindrum, who did not like snooker, toured endlessly much of the time on behalf of various charities but losing no sleep that a few proposals for title defences came to nothing. When eventually there was a commercially credible challenge from McConachy in 1960, Lindrum relinquished the title. He was awarded the OBE and died in 1980.

Billiards as a commercial proposition, though, was in Davis's phrase, "as dead as smutton" 25 years earlier.

Rugby League

Super League

Halifax Blue Sox 25 Bradford Bulls 12

Elliott fumes in hot seat

Andy Wilson

BRADFORD, the champions, are in real danger of missing out on the top five play-offs after a match which summed up this season's vastly contrasting fortunes for the Bulls and their local rivals Halifax.

For Bradford's coach Matthew Elliott, who has previously been at pains to defend his players after defeats, this was the final straw. "We looked like a bunch of strangers playing with each other and I've had a gutful of taking the heat," he said before storming out of his press conference. "But I'm not going to resign. I'm tougher than that."

This comprehensive defeat leaves Bradford in fifth, only two points ahead of Sheffield and the Broncos, with visits to London and Wigan still to come. Halifax, on the other hand, are virtually certain to finish in the top three.

Bradford were thrown off track by an early Blue Sox blitz in the first half. They conceded three penalties in the first three minutes, the third which Martin Pearson kicked, and it took Halifax only eight minutes to score their first try, Des Clark surprising Jeremy Donougher and offloading for Martin Moana to score.

Two more penalties pro-

vided Halifax with the position for their next try, Karl Harrison's strong drive laying the platform for Chris Chester to stretch over from Gavin Clinch's pass. Damian Gibson then capitalised on sloppy defending around the ruck and sprinted 50 metres from dummy half A Clinch drop goal gave Halifax a 19-0 half-time lead.

The Bulls had overturned a 25-6 deficit to win 30-26 in this fixture last season, and they raised the hopes of their large travelling support when Brian McDermott plunged over from close range.

A right-wing raid by Tevita Vika and Graeme Bradley threatened another but Jamie Bloom cleared for Halifax, who then extended their lead to 21-6 through another Pearson penalty, this time after a bout of fisticuffs which earned Gary Mercer and Mike Forshaw spells in the sin-bin.

Bradford pulled back six points through a Paul Dawson try converted by Steve McNamara but this was Halifax's night and the popular winger Fereti Tuliagi crashed over for their fourth try three minutes from time.

Halifax Gibson, Tuliagi, Pearson, Bouvier, Bloom, Chester, Clinch, Harrison, Rowley, Marshall, Mercer, Clark, Moana, Subbitt, Powell, Baldwin, Skerrett, Hall, Bradbury, Spruce, Etkin, Bradley, Williams, Scars, Paul, Deacon, Harrison, Lowe, McDermott, Donougher, Forshaw, McNamara, Subbitt, Pearson, Croucher, Graham, King, Fiddell.

Referee: J. Connolly (Wigan)

Davidson boosts Saints' hopes

THE St Helens second-row forward Paul Davidson ran in two tries and created a third in his side's 20-6 win at Hull yesterday. Saints' fourth successive victory since it was announced that their coach Shaun McRae was leaving boosted their play-off hopes.

Shaun Edwards won his scrum-half duel with Bob-

bie Goulding as London Broncos consigned Huddersfield to their eighth successive defeat. Edwards created three tries and scored a late penalty to complete a 20-6 success.

Wakefield are assured of first place in the First Division after beating Whitehaven 15-3 but they need to win the play-off series to become champions.

Motor Sport

Burns impresses in fifth place behind winner Makinen

David Williams in Jyväskylä

TOMMI MAKINEN'S fifth consecutive victory in the Rally Finland, unprecedented in any world championship rally, hogged the limelight on home ground, but his Mitsubishi team-mate Richard Burns's fifth place was an equally arresting feat.

It was the best result by a British driver in the rally's 48-year history, the equivalent of a Briton taking fifth in major skiing. Remarkably, Burns was a novice on the most difficult, specialised event in the world championship.

Finnish forest stages are among the most treacherous in the world and riddled with blind crests - sometimes in mid-corner - which can launch cars for up to 100 feet. Prior knowledge is priceless as

drivers are restricted to three practice runs.

"A lot of it is seriously quick; you're going sideways at 100mph," said Burns. "I'm quite happy to have got round rally, hogged the limelight on home ground, but his Mitsubishi team-mate Richard Burns's fifth place was an equally arresting feat."

Makinen has clawed his way back into world championship contention and shares second place with Colin McRae, nine points behind the Spaniard Carlos Sainz with three rounds left.

Alister McRae, Colin's younger brother, chipped away at the myth of Finnish invincibility. Driving an outdated Volkswagen, he was the brightest of Finland's new stars to win the two-wheel drive category against ferocious opposition. It was a timely result as the big teams seek fresh blood for next year.



Down the slope... John Whitaker tackles the Derby course on Virtual Village Heyman

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Whitaker turns Derby tables

John Kerr at Hickstead sees Kilbaha slip as Gammon brings home Britain's bacon

THERE were shades of 1995 about the finish to the Hickstead Derby yesterday when John Whitaker, on Gammon, beat Ireland's John Ledingham, riding his final previous winner Kilbaha, in an exciting jump-off.

Three years ago the same two horses fought out the finish, but victory went to the Irishman. This time the

Yorkshireman won a £20,000 car from the sponsor, Peugeot, and £10,000.

Earlier the two achieved the first clear rounds for three years over the traditional 16-obstacle course. Going first in the decider Gammon faulted only going into the Devil's Dyke, now approached after a tight turn. The Irishman's advantage soon evaporated as Kilbaha hit the innocuous

first of the 10 remaining obstacles: Ledingham attributed the mistake to a slip beforehand. Although he sped on without further mishap he was a second slower on the clock.

Gammon, now 21, has been ridden in recent years by John Whitaker's daughter Louisa and has contested several Derbies. Only a week ago her father decided to have another try. He looked fresh for the job and his experience, particularly at the Derby Bank, helped him. Geoff Glazard on Hello

Oscar took third place as the only four-fault rider ahead of another Briton, Rob Hockley, on Lionel, who added a fractional time penalty to his one mistake. On his second ride, Virtual Village Heyman, Whitaker shared fifth place with Ireland's Peter Charles on Traxdata T'Aime; each had seven faults. There were four fallers but fortunately they were all without serious injury. The luckless John Popeye fell twice - on last year's winner Bluebird and Lauren II.

SPORTS NEWS 21

Tennis

Ivanisevic nightmare continues

Richard Jago in New Haven

THE nightmare for Goran Ivanisevic continues after he lost to the Slovak Karol Kucera in the final of the Pilot Pen International here last night.

The Croatian says he has not forgotten his Wimbledon near-miss for one day and even claims he sits up in the middle of the night holding a racket. Winning a title in the United States for the first time would have been great therapy, he believes.

But that distinction eluded Ivanisevic, meaning more troubled nights, as he lost 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 to the crafty, counter-punching Kucera.

Ivanisevic's semi-final performance had promised so much more: he demolished the defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-3, 6-4.

Overall, the Croatian has impressed here with his adaptability since the shoulder injury which caused him to take several weeks off last year started to bother him again. He has served hard less often and tried to rely more on volleys, which in the past he has not always trusted. Now he is starting to.

Ivanisevic thought he would face Richard Krajicek in the final but the seventh-seeded Kucera won their semi-final 7-6, 6-4. The Dutch refused to shake hands with man thought he had served

an ace to win the first-set tie-break but faded after the disappointment.

Tim Henman might have ended a third-looking Krajicek's campaign earlier. In a remarkable quarter-final in the early hours of Saturday the British No. 2 lost to the Dutchman 18-16 in the final-set tie-break of a 2hr 20min contest.

Henman had eight match points, three on his serve, and he also saved three before losing 5-7, 6-2, 7-6. Nevertheless he called it his best build-up to any Grand Slam so far. "I'm beginning to understand my own game better," he said.

He now takes a week off before the US Open whereas Greg Rusedski has one more event in which to get into shape, the Hamlet Cup in Long Island.

Britain's other No. 1, Sam Smith, was less pleased. She played well but lost 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 on Saturday in the US Open qualifying to the world No. 54 Elena Tartakova. It was a match of unusual confrontations.

Once a spectator berated a linesman loudly for calling out a Smith forehand drive which appeared to land on the baseline. "You must be anti-British," he bellowed.

Smith also uttered noisy words after being given a warning for whacking her racket near a sponsor's advertising board. At the end she refused to shake hands with the umpire.

Sport in brief

Motorcycling

Max Biaggi of Italy led from start to finish on his Honda to win yesterday's 500cc Czech Grand Prix at Brno and oust Michael Doohan as the world championship leader.

Biaggi won a four-man Honda duel, Spain's Alex Criville finished second followed by Alex Barros of Brazil and the Japanese rider Tadayuki Okada.

Doohan, the defending champion who has won the title four times, went out of contention on the first lap when he slid off into the gravel. He recovered but was then forced to pull out after 14 of the 22 laps because of a mechanical problem.

Squash

Michelle Martin of Australia won the Singapore Open yesterday by defeating her compatriot and the world No. 1 Sarah FitzGerald for the second time in two weeks. The world No. 2 recovered from the loss of the first game to win 9-10, 9-7, 9-4, 9-3 in just over an hour. A fortnight ago Martin beat FitzGerald in the Australian Open final.

Boxing

A bout deemed to be deliberate cost Paul Ayala of the United States his chance of taking the WBC bantamweight title in Yokohama yesterday. His title fight against Joichiro Tatsuyoshi of Japan was stopped in the seventh round with the champion badly cut over the right eye.

resulting from Ayala's careless use of the head. The three judges had Tatsuyoshi ahead on their cards.

On the same bill Cesar Bazan of Mexico gained a unanimous decision over Japan's Hiroyuki Sakamoto to retain his WBC lightweight title.

Rugby Union

Argentina and the United States qualified for next year's World Cup in Wales after finishing first and third respectively in the Pan American qualifying tournament in Buenos Aires. The unbeaten Pumas defeated Canada, who also qualified, 54-28 and the United States beat Uruguay 21-16.

Bowls

David Colbourne's Bolton team produced a superb recovery to win the men's All England triples title at Worthing yesterday. Colbourne, Tony King and Barrie Kitson were 17-13 down with three ends to play but scored a six and two doubles to beat Gordon Charlton's side from Sandwich 23-17.

Chess

Jim Plaskett, the former British champion, shares the lead with one round left in the Hampstead Grandmasters tournament at University College School, under Leonard Barden. The 38-year-old from Hastings has lost twice but his superior win count keeps him level with the unbeaten Boris Kreiman of the United States on 10 points out of 14.

Hockey

England complete hat-trick

Pat Rowley at Blaham

ENGLAND may have sneaked a couple of wins against Argentina on Friday and Saturday but, once the weather returned to normal, the Pan-American champions were washed away yesterday.

Britain's Commonwealth Games-bound team gained a 3-0 victory against dispirited opponents to take the series by the same margin.

If one watched the first two matches with some forboding, many of the worries were alleviated yesterday. Though

England will hardly be able to sustain such an intense pace in Kuala Lumpur's conditions, their ability to make and take chances is encouraging.

Yesterday the defence played so well against the quality Argentinian attack that the goalkeeper Simon Mason did not have to produce the outstanding form displayed by Simon Luckes and Jimmy Lewis earlier.

England took an early lead for the second day running. The inside-left Russell Garcia did not need the best of flicks to convert England's first corner. Garcia, their sole survi-

vor of the golden 1988 side, converted a corner in all three games but remains something of an enigma, appearing to drift at times.

Argentina pressed hard for an equaliser but were stretched by England's quick passing. A break down the left, started by Stuart Head, saw Mark Pearn and Garcia combine to allow Ben Sharpe to add England's second goal.

Early in the second half Sharpe scored his fourth goal in three days. He had a big hand in making the goal and snapped up a half-chance when a Danny Hall shot rebounded.

Rugby Union

Tri-Nations Series: South Africa 29 Australia 15

Springboks on top of the world

Greg Grouden in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA'S coach Nick Mallett described his Tri-Nations victory as the greatest Springbok team of all time after they overwhelmed Australia to win the southern hemisphere tournament at Ellis Park on Saturday night.

Mallett, who was enjoying his 18th straight victory as coach in the team's 14th successive Test win, said there was now no doubt that, by defeating Australia, South Africa had proved they were the world's best team.

"In the past I've played it, but I can say it now: on the 22nd of August 1998, South Africa are the best team in the world and I am very proud to be a part of it," Mallett said.

"This is just a fantastic achievement. We've beaten France away twice, we've beaten England home and away, Australia and New Zealand home and away.

"I challenge anyone to go back in the history of South African rugby ever to find results like that in a one-year period."

Mallett's claim that his side are better than the 1995 World Cup victors, and other illustrious line-ups including the 1997, 1991-92, 1990-91 and 1989-90 Springboks, was backed up by his scrum-half Joost van

der Westhuizen, who was involved in the other Ellis Park extravaganza three years ago when they won the World Cup final.

"I don't want to sound arrogant or overconfident but this is the best team I've played for," he said.

Van der Westhuizen, alongside his captain Gary Teichmann, led the Springboks around Ellis Park for a victory lap before 63,000 fans in scenes reminiscent of 1995 when they defeated New Zealand.

So confident were the South Africans of victory that, with six minutes left to play, the

Tannoy boomed out We Are The Champions.

Mallett and Van der Westhuizen argued that this was a better effort than 1995 as it involved playing top-class opposition week in, week out all over the southern hemisphere, relying upon enormous courage, stamina and willpower to finish unbeaten after four Tests.

South Africa kept their best Tri-Nations performance until last, with an exceptional defensive effort basically blotting Australia out of the game and nullifying their best asset, the ability to string long phases of play together.



Fast forward... South Africa's Bobby Skinstad powers through Tim Horan's tackle

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROGERS

Baister offers olive branch in fixtures row

BRIAN BAISTER, the Rugby Football Union chairman, yesterday turned peace-maker in the dispute with England's top clubs over the fixture list for the new season which starts on September 5.

The RFU has not ratified the Allied Dunbar Premiership One schedule because it leaves room for games with the Welsh breakaway clubs Cardiff and Swansea.

"I hope common sense prevails," Baister said. "We have no objection to the hand of friendship being extended to Swansea and Cardiff in that we put in place a certain amount of friendliness. But we cannot allow a shadow Allied Dunbar league to be created by Cardiff and Swansea when they are in breach of Welsh Rugby Union regulations."

Baister reiterated his opposition to a full set of friendly fixtures, warning: "We would be in breach of the International Board regulations. If we do that the IB will take sanctions against the RFU - and that could include us being thrown out of the World Cup. It's madness."

"What really disappoints me is that this is purely a Welsh problem. Swansea and Cardiff have made their minds up they don't want to play in Welsh rugby, but why do those problems have to be visited on English rugby?"

PARTING SHOT

Behind the wire... the Irish team watch play during the first European Championship at Brunel University in Uxbridge. The sport is a mixed game in which the ball is lobbed rather than hurled

Photograph by Martin Gwyn



Talk shows conspicuous by a lack of absence

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kellner

SPURS are a riddle wrapped in an enigma shrouded in mystery. How can a team fielding talented players like Ginola, Campbell, Anderton and Ferdinand continue to perform so wretchedly?

Mark Lawrenson on Match of the Day was so confused that he described their problems somewhat metaphorically to a "conspicuous lack of absence at the back of the defence".

Lawrenson was not alone in coming up with intriguing solutions to the conundrum. Spurs are the subject of such endless speculation in the media that their fans have been given their own phone-in

'I was sitting just a few feet away from David Platt during the World Cup. He is a really nice fellow, but he's mad'

programmes. Richard Littlejohn on Radio 5 Live on Wednesday nights, and Danny Kelly, another lifelong supporter, on Talk Radio's Saturday phone-in.

Kelly, egged on by co-host Danny Baker, appeared incoherent with anger — in as much as that is discernible on the radio — after Saturday's defeat which he put down to a conspicuous lack of absence of mad people in the Spurs set-up.

"I was sitting just a few feet away from David Platt in the World Cup," said Kelly. "He's a nice fellow, but the man is mad; certainly, eye-skipingly mad," which sounded a bit like me on a programme that was urging Spurs fans to lay siege to the ground.

"It is time the ground turned," said Baker. "It is time to say, thus far and no further."

Fredricably, quarter of an hour of ranting from Baker and Kelly resulted in a dribble of barely coherent calls. Far more productive was Baker's discussion of track and field injuries. "Have you ever been hit on the head by a shot put or a discus?" he asked. "Sure enough, within seconds the

calls started coming. "Hello, I'm Jonathan and I got hit on the head by a crossbar."

At least Baker and Kelly can be original, funny and engaging, though — adjectives not likely to be used lightly of their Radio 5 Live rival, David Mellor.

The subject of who exactly got hit on the head by what leads almost inevitably to Sky's Super League commentators, Eddie and Steve, whose eye-spinning on Friday was entirely justified by one of the misses of the season, referee Stuart Cummings's failure to spot the obvious lack of absence of the Wigan forward Mick Cassidy's elbow from the face of Leeds's Adrian Morley.

This was rugby league, as some of us still quaintly refer to it, turned rollerball: a forward travelling at full tilt pole-axed, cartoon-style, by a blow to the head. Even allowing for Steve's talent for hyperbole, it was hard to diverge from his view that this was one of the most violent incidents seen on a rugby field. His sub-text that the standard of refereeing has not kept up with the pace and intensity of the modern game also seemed spot-on.

The earnest discussion between referee and linesman, to which we are now privy thanks to Sky's microphones, seemed to belong to another era. As they discussed whether Cassidy should be placed on report, the video evidence we were watching clearly indicated that the player had no right to remain on the field.

Interestingly, a new ruling in Super League allows referees to communicate by radio with the video referee in the stand, but still forbids them to look at the big screen. The logic of that seems a little muzzy to me. There is nothing to stop the players looking at the big screen, though, and I am prepared to bet that he'll find some revenge missions that had this viewer hiding his head behind the cushions.

"I don't know what music they will be playing, but this is the black-and-blue brothers," said Steve. Richly entertaining though Sky's rugby league coverage is, the sport suffers through its absence from terrestrial TV for great chunks of the year, which we had always supposed was due to the BBC's shortage of funds. Clearly not, since this week the Corporation reportedly managed to find £2.5 million to pick up Vanessa Feltz's contract — possibly in a bid to stimulate sales of widescreen televisions.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

THE NATIONS CUP	29	Australia	29	29
IRISH-PROVINCIAL CUP	29	Ulster	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	Wales	29	29

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE	29	29	29
CHAMPIONSHIP	29	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	29	29

FOOTBALL

PREMIER LEAGUE	29	29	29
CHAMPIONSHIP	29	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	29	29

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE	29	29	29
MINOR LEAGUE	29	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	29	29

CRICKET

TEST MATCH	29	29	29
ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL	29	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	29	29

HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL	29	29	29
DOMESTIC	29	29	29
WELSH TRIAL MATCH	29	29	29

ACADEMY: Champions League

29	29	29	29
29	29	29	29
29	29	29	29

EUROPEAN CUP

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Triple gold crowns a perfect weekend



Golden boys... Steve Backley in the javelin, the last 4x400 metres relay man Mark Richardson and the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards were all victorious in Budapest yesterday, helping Britain top the final medal table

Life below stairs



Big man for a big job... Neville Southall stands guard for Doncaster Rovers during their first win for his player-manager pal Ian Snodin on Saturday

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEVE FORREST

Medals rush puts Britain on top

Duncan Mackay in Budapest sees the superpowers left in the shade

BY THE end of the European Championships in the Nép Stadium last night there were so many British athletes running round the track on laps of honour that they were colliding with one another, and the band played God Save The Queen so often that they were able to throw away the music.

Gold medals for Jonathan Edwards in the triple jump, Steve Backley in the javelin and the men's 4x400 metres relay team brought the total to nine. It left Britain proudly on top of the medal tables for the first time as traditional superpowers such as Germany and Russia were left floundering in their wake.

Backley was the first to claim gold when he won the javelin to join Linford Christie and Colin Jackson as the only Britons to win his event on three consecutive occasions.

The 29-year-old Kent thrower effectively killed the competition stone dead with his first effort which arched out to 89.72 metres, beating the championship record he had set in qualifying. "This was a fantastic night for British athletics," he said. "It's like turning the clock back to the glory days."

Backley's joy was complete when his training partner Mick Hill threw 86.52m in the fifth round to win the silver medal.

Edwards did to his competitors in the triple jump what Backley had done when, with his first effort, he leapt out to 17.94m — another championship record. He then sailed out to 17.95m with his last jump to prove he is back to the form he showed in 1995 when he won the world title and broke the world record three times. "A lot of people have doubted me this year but I proved them wrong," he said.

Britain were thought to be guaranteed at least one gold medal it was in the 4x400m relay. But they were pushed hard by a Polish quartet buoyant after their country's successful week. Mark Hyton and Jamie Baulch gave Britain a good start and the individual champion Iwan Thomas stretched the lead with a split of 44.3sec. Mark Richardson, so distraught after finishing only third to Thomas in the individual event, had to battle hard to hold off Robert Mackowiak, who had beaten him to the silver two days earlier, as he anchored the team home.

The women's team, who until yesterday had only the victory of Denise Lewis in the heptathlon to cheer, put the icing on a very large cake by winning a bronze medal in their 4x400m relay, a race won by Germany. Allison Curshley clinched the medal by holding off Iona Törle, the 400m hurdles champion, in the final few strides and fell into the

arms of her team-mates Donna Fraser, Vicky Jamison and Katharine Merry.

It left Britain with 16 medals in total, a remarkable turnaround in fortunes for a team dismissed as no-hopers 12 months ago after failing to win any gold medals in the 1996 Olympics and 1997 World Championships.

"We are on the verge of something special with these performances," said David Moorcroft, the embattled chief executive of British Athletics. "We've had one or two years when youngsters watching this sport might have thought it was in the doldrums. To win nine gold medals is mind-boggling."

Ireland also had their best championships thanks mainly to Sonia O'Sullivan. The 28-year-old Cogh athlete, who yesterday wore a black ribbon on her vest in tribute to the victims of Omagh, made history by becoming the first woman to win the 5,000m and 10,000m double in a major championships.

O'Sullivan used the same tactics in the 5,000m yesterday which had carried her to success over Paula Radcliffe in the 10,000m five days ear-

Final table

	G	S	B
Great Britain	9	4	3
Germany	8	7	8
France	6	9	7
Poland	3	6	1
Romania	3	2	2
Ukraine	3	2	1
Italy	2	4	3
Portugal	2	3	1
Spain	2	1	4
France	2	1	1
Ireland	2	0	1
Hungary	1	1	0
Bulgaria	1	0	3
Greece	1	0	2
Ethiopia	1	0	0
Czech Republic	0	3	1
Finland	0	2	1
Switzerland	0	1	1
Latvia	0	1	0
Slovenia	0	1	0
Sweden	0	1	0
Belarus	0	0	2
Austria	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	1
Netherlands	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1

lier. She sat on the shoulder of Romania's Gabriela Szabo, the world champion, and then launched a withering spirit in the last 120 metres to win in 15min 6.5sec.

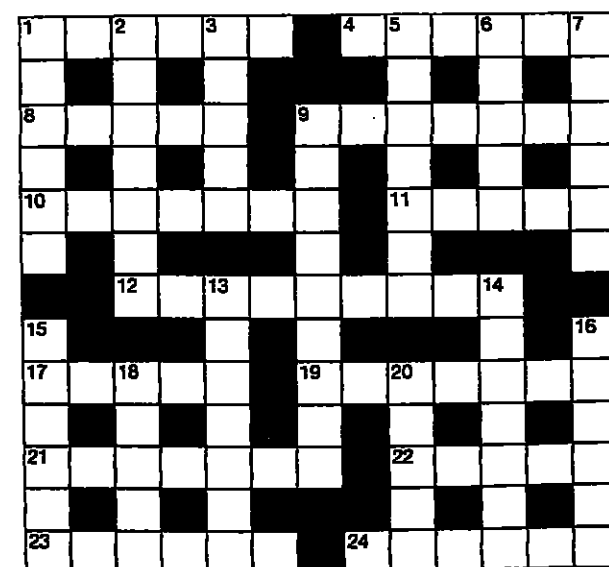
The 40,000 crowd were brought to their feet when the world record holder Wilson Kipketer sensationally finished last in the 800m. The disaffected Kenyan, running in Denmark's colours, folded down the home straight after covering the first lap inside 50 seconds. As his legs buckled, Germany's 20-year-old Nils Schumann sprinted past to win in 1:44.89 and Kipketer gave up.

The fastest finisher was James McIlroy, the youngest from Larne who represents Ireland. He finished fourth in 1:45.48 after being off the fast early pace.

The Germans won three gold medals on this final day, the bravest being Damian Kallabie in the 3,000m steeplechase despite slipping on the final water jump.

Lewis triumphs, page 22

Quick Crossword No. 8834



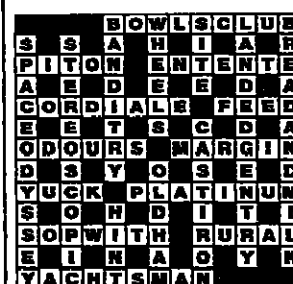
Across

- 1 Command (6)
- 4 Spirits — showing knees! (6)
- 6 Mistake (5)
- 9 Lasting (7)
- 10 Tool (3+3)
- 11 Bury (5)
- 12 Newspapers' (5,4)
- 17 Large fruit (5)
- 19 Officer — not specialised (7)
- 21 Make use of — bold deed (7)
- 22 Stimulate — increase (5)
- 23 Suburb with film studio (6)
- 24 Mend (5)

Down

- 1 Infringement — gap (6)
- 2 Solid roof of car (7)
- 3 Discard — fight (5)
- 5 Essex port (7)
- 6 Automaton (5)
- 7 Fortified wine (6)
- 8 Utterly — blunt (5)
- 13 Card game (bridge) (7)

- 14 Frame for climbing plants (7)
- 15 Measure of current (6)
- 16 Northern Ireland (6)
- 18 Flap on coat (5)
- 20 Generous (5)



Solution No. 8833

Dereliction fails to deter Donny

Jeremy Alexander visits Belle Vue for a taste of triumph and cheese and onion in a 1-0 Conference win over Kidderminster

CHAMPAGNE was opened in the Doncaster dressing-room on Saturday and, if the sandwiches were Tesco's cheese and onion, that was appropriate too. This was a blue-collar victory, Rovers' first since April 4, first in the Conference, first since the owners from hell were banished, first for the old Donny boy and new player-manager Ian Snodin.

Three months ago Doncaster, 118 years old, looked in danger of becoming a former football club in a former county, having dropped

out of the league by 15 points.

Now the daubed dereliction of Belle Vue, corrugated and barbed, is smiling with hope, relief, the fondness of fans, and joy confined only by the suspicion, gradually receding, that the new lot, Westferry (a development company based in the Isle of Man), might be tainted with the old lot.

The new chairman is John Ryan, multimillionaire and 40 years a fan, who has made his fortune in cosmetic surgery. His company, Transform, helped to bring Melinda Messenger to

prominence, and if he can take the club forward as far and as fast they will be in the Premiership in 2002. There is promise of a new stadium as part of the nearby leisure park, which means Asda, adjoining, may get its expansion wish. The local council owns all the land.

Belle Vue, evocative as a neglected graveyard, is beyond salvage and would hardly qualify for the league, evidence of the iniquity of that body's double standards on grounds: one for their own, another for would-be newcomers, as was discovered by Kidderminster, Conference winners in 1994.

It is as nothing, though, to the problems caused at Doncaster by the club's previous controllers, led by Ken Richardson, a waste-paper merchant.

His six years in charge also included a fire in the main stand in June 1995, in connection with which he will stand trial next year on charges of conspiracy to commit arson, which he denies.

Either notices, produced by Friends of Doncaster Rovers FC, are still on the dilapidated walls: "Doncaster Rovers destroyed by one man and his dog" and "Weaver out or die", a separate graffiti identifying the dog. Mark Weaver was general manager, then manager when no one else would do the job under Richardson's interference.

They used 45 players last season and Dobbin was one of the serious ones. With wages and training uncertain, they ended up whittling down supermarket aisles. No wonder Saturday's mascot chose the substitute Lee Warren as his favourite player: he was the only decent one left.

Strictly Snodin, appointed a fortnight before the opening match, inherited five. For the first match, at

Dover, he picked one up at Watford Gap. For the second, at home to Southport and also lost 1-0, he had his old Everton mate Neville Southall in goal.

The crowd, averaging 1,715 last season, more than doubled. They finished both games with 10 men. A notice above the showers says: "Keep fighting." They fought like mad on Saturday, making up for unfamiliarity with revivalist spirit. Kidderminster had the red card, Paul Webb for serious foul play, and Rovers' captain Shaun Goodwin converted a penalty after Stuart Brock, naturally in black and white, brought down Tommy Wright. Southall wore Stoke socks — he was never dress-conscious — the red plain red shirts, relieved of "East Riding Socks", a Richardson company.

Southall, 40 next month and more baggage balloon even than shuffling bear, is happy to play on a match-by-match basis while coaching at Tranmere and Huddersfield. He dropped sharply to his right to deny Ian Arnold in a one-on-one. The crowd loved his firm, late catch of a free-kick.

"I've had a nice welcome," he said. "The crowd and commitment are terrific. I'll take Snowy a month to get what he wants but he's working on the shape." That is the shape of the team, not the goalkeeper.

Most of Snodin's recruits have come from Yorkshire Third Division clubs. "Now we've got going, people are ringing to offer their services. But, with so many new faces, that was like our third pre-season friendly." Heaven help the Conference when they play in earnest.

Heaven, it seems, is at last helping Doncaster. As a steward, 32 years a supporter, said: "The poison's been drawn." That in itself merited champagne.



Pulling his weight... Southall called into acrobatic action